"YUME NO HATE"
(The End of a Dream)
Chapter 7 of *Mitsumete Itai*
A oneshot by Nishida Higashi

ISBN 4-8322-8302-2
First published 2004
Publisher Hanaoto Comics, Houbunsha

Translation notes.
1 This story is set in a city outside Japan. The currency is the dollar, a customer is called 'muster,' and the characters have Western names. From the subway reference, it's quite possible the location is New York, USA.
2 Scatology is a type of fetish sex involving defecation as part of foreplay. Participants may also eat human excrement for their own erotic pleasure. The two main characters make a verbal in-joke about this practice. (Thanks to http://www.urbandictionary.com/ for info.)
3 No scatology scenes appear in this story.

A Half-baked scanlation
URL http://lyrebird.ath.cx/halfbaked/

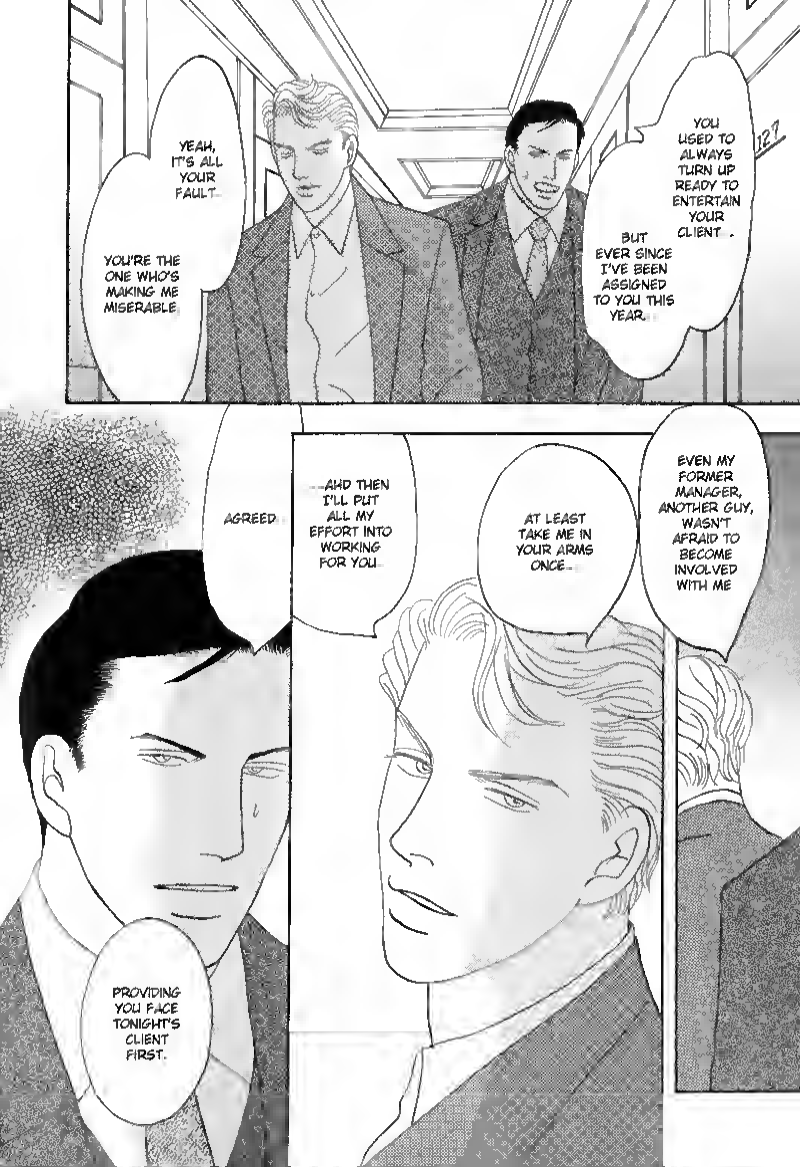
夢の果て
YUME NO HATE
— THE END OF A DREAM —

I'M SURE I'LL MAKE IT WORK.
AFTER I CUT ALL MY TIES HERE, I'LL THROW MYSELF INTO THE CATTLE BREEDING BUSINESS.
BASICALLY THAT'S MY PLAN.
BUY A RANCH IN THE COUNTRY WITH MY HARD-EARNED CASH.
SHALL I HIRE YOU AS THE GUY WHO SHOVELS THE MANURE, CHRIS?
IF YOU WANT TO EARN MONEY, JOHN, DO YOUR JOB PROPERLY.
YOUR CLIENTS ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT YOU LATELY, PLUS THERE'S A DROP IN THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS FOR YOUR SERVICES

CHRIS DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY SLEEPING WITH ME?
THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES, HUH? I COME HERE FOR A BANGING IF I WANT A TASTE OF THE EXOTIC
IF YOU WANT TO TASTE SOMETHING EXOTIC, I'LL REFER YOU TO A CLIENT WITH A SCATOLOGY FETISH
SO YOU'VE NOTICED YOU'RE IN A SLUMP?
IT'S NOT A RECENT SLUMP
TAKE CARE WITH YOUR SERVICES TONIGHT. YOUR CLIENT IS ONE OF THE ELITE IN BOTH HIS INCOME AND SOCIAL STANDING
SO... DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY SLEEPING WITH ME, CHRIS?
IF THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF GUYS WILLING TO DO SCATOLOGY, I'LL TAKE IT ON.
AS YOUR AGENT, IF I LAY MY HAND ON THE MERCHANDISE MY THROAT WILL BE CUT

I DON'T GET WHY YOU KEEP SAYING THAT.
OH, YOU'LL DO IT?
NO MEN OR MANURE-SHOVELING FOR ME!
SMELL THAT STENCH! I TOLD YOU BEFORE NOT TO SMOKE TOBACCO.
click
IT'S TIME NOW. DON'T MAKE YOUR CLIENT WAIT
HE'S IN ROOM NUMBER 121. HURRY UP AND GO
121
ERR...
121
BUMP
UWAH!

UMM...
OBVIOUSLY I'M IN A SLUMP.
CALL ANOTHER GUY TO REPLACE ME
IF YOU DON'T TURN UP AT ALL, WE'LL GET A PHONE CALL FROM THE CLIENT
WELL, I NEED TO TAKE A LAST-MINUTE LEAK BEFORE I GO IN
WHY ARE YOU WALKING BACK?
W-WHOA, CHRIS! ARE YOU JOINING IN, TOO?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY TALKING THIS WAY?
HAHAHA! DON'T GET SO CARRIED AWAY! I'M JUST A HOOKER
129
JOHN, YOU'RE NOT GOING ON A DATE WITH A KID! THIS JOB IS VERY—


YOU USED TO ALWAYS TURN UP READY TO ENTERTAIN YOUR CLIENT.
BUT EVER SINCE I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO YOU THIS YEAR.
YEAH, IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MAKING ME MISERABLE.
127
EVEN MY FORMER MANAGER, ANOTHER GUY, WASN'T AFRAID TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH ME
AT LEAST TAKE ME IN YOUR ARMS ONCE.
...AND THEN I'LL PUT ALL MY EFFORT INTO WORKING FOR YOU.
AGREED.
PROVIDING YOU FACE TONIGHT'S CLIENT FIRST.

KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK
121
WAIT... YOU'RE THE AGENT FOR THIS PERSON, CORRECT?
YES.
JUST WHAT I NEED... YOU'LL BE IN CHARGE OF THE VIDEO
SHIT
OUR APOLOGIES, MISTER.
121
WELL, HE'S JUST LIKE HIS PHOTO...
FINE, COME INSIDE
TO MAKE UP FOR OUR LATENESS, FEEL FREE TO BE AS ROUGH AS YOU LIKE WITH HIM WITHOUT LEAVING BRUISES
BUT IF THAT GUY'S IN CHARGE OF THE VIDEO, COUNT ME OUT!
HOLD ON A MINUTE! IF YOU WANT ME TO TAKE PART IN A FILM YOU'RE GOING TO SELL, NO PROBLEM
HOLD ON!
THIS VIDEO'S ONLY FOR YOUR OWN PRIVATE ENTERTAINMENT, RIGHT?
CONSIDER MY REPUTATION. IT WOULD BE DEVASTATING FOR ME IF THIS VIDEO WAS EVER DISTRIBUTED FOR SALE
A CAMERAMAN IS BETTER THAN USING A FIXED TRIPOD

DON'T GO! RIGHT, BEGIN FILMING NOW!
CALL SOME-ONE ELSE!
HEY CHRIS! GET OUT OF HERE!

REALLY? SO YOU'RE RELUCTANT FOR HIM TO WATCH YOU.
THEN THIS SHOULD BE INTERESTING. PLEASE BEGIN

HEY CAMERA-MAN! MOVE IN CLOSER! ZOOM IN ON HIS FACE!
YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST, OLD GEEZER!
OWW! OWWW!

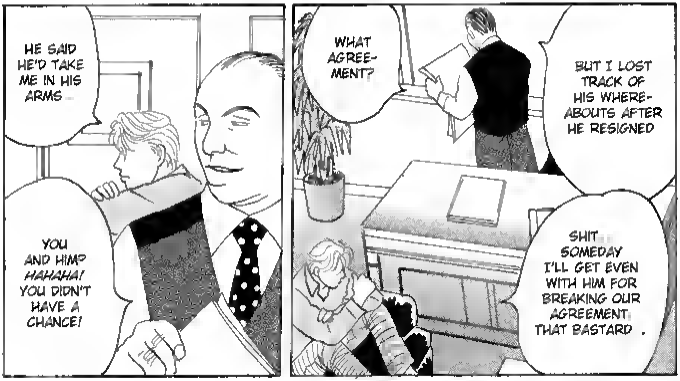
CHRIS...
YOU— SHIT!

CHRIS...?

I'VE CALLED A TAXI FOR YOU GO HOME
CHRIS? YOU FEEL LIKE GOING HOME ON YOUR OWN?
CHRIS, YOU JERK! YOU GAVE UP FILMING THE VIDEO AND FLED HALFWAY THROUGH!
THAT GEEZER WAS IN A GREAT POSITION TO LEAVE ME BATTERED AND BRUISED!
WAIT! YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ME ALONE IN MY CURRENT CONDITION?
CHRIS!
CHRIS!
WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT THE AGREE-MENT!?
YOUR AGREE-MENT WITH ME!

WITH ME...
.....
I'M SORRY.
CHRIS!
CHRIS!
SLAM
CHRIS!!

SMITH & ANDER
INITIALLY THAT GUY...
...WAS MOVING ABOUT, WORKING WITHIN VARIOUS HOTELS


HE SAID HE'D TAKE ME IN HIS ARMS...
YOU AND HIM? HAHAHA! YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!
WHAT AGREE-MENT?
BUT I LOST TRACK OF HIS WHERE-ABOUTS AFTER HE RESIGNED
SHIT... SOMEDAY I'LL GET EVEN WITH HIM FOR BREAKING OUR AGREEMENT. THAT BASTARD .

I KNOW I THINK TO GET SOMETHING THAT BAD...
...HE MUST'VE SLEPT AROUND WITH HUNDREDS OF MEN
THAT GUY'S IMPOTENT, YOU KNOW.
I HEARD HE LOST THE ABILITY TO GET IT UP AFTER SOME ILLNESS.

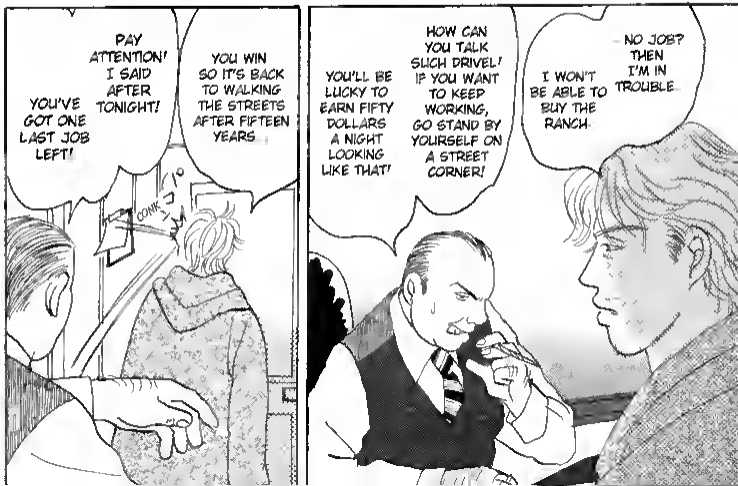
AT THE TIME I EVEN SMILED AND LAUGHED, SINCE I WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT IT AT ALL.
WHEN HE TOLD ME ABOUT HIS PROBLEM, IT WAS FINE FOR ME, ANYWAY...
WELL, WHY DID YOU BOTHER MAKING SUCH A WORTHLESS PROMISE?

THEN I TOLD HIM WE SHOULD SET UP OUR OWN CATTLE RANCH TOGETHER...
AND HE REPLIED BY EMBRACING ME IN HIS ARMS.
BECAUSE IT'S ENOUGH FOR ME TO BE CLOSE TO YOU...
...THAT'S WHAT I SAID.

AHAHA.. I SURE AM, HUH?
WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK? ARE YOU A LITTLE KID?
WHAT KIND OF ROMANTIC MELODRAMA ARE YOU LIVING IN? STUPID IDIOT!!

I CAN STILL DREAM AT LEAST, CAN'T I?
I'M TRULY A STUPID IDIOT.
BUT...
I HAD THE FEELING THIS ONE COULD'VE TURNED INTO REALITY...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IDIOT'S REACHED HIS LIMIT...
SO MANY TIMES...
OVER AND OVER AGAIN, I'D COME UP WITH SUCH CRAZY DREAMS
.....
...CHRIS.

JOHN!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE READY TO SPEW ON THE FACE OF TONIGHT'S CLIENT!
YEAH... I DRANK TOO MUCH
COULD THAT BE WHY I WOKE UP LOOKING LIKE THIS?
DON'T JOKE AROUND! AFTER TONIGHT YOU'RE OUT OF A JOB!

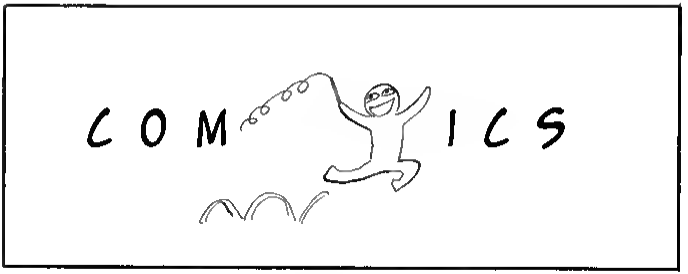

NO JOB? THEN I'M IN TROUBLE
I WON'T BE ABLE TO BUY THE RANCH
HOW CAN YOU TALK SUCH DRIVEL! IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WORKING, GO STAND BY YOURSELF ON A STREET CORNER!
YOU'LL BE LUCKY TO EARN FIFTY DOLLARS A NIGHT LOOKING LIKE THAT!
YOU WIN SO IT'S BACK TO WALKING THE STREETS AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS
PAY ATTENTION! I SAID AFTER TONIGHT!
YOU'VE GOT ONE LAST JOB LEFT!
CONK

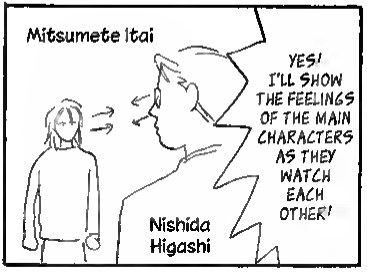
JOHN!
NOT WORTH THE SUBWAY FARE I MIGHT WALK...
GO TO THIS HOTEL TONIGHT...
YOU'LL EARN ENOUGH TO AT LEAST COVER NEXT MONTH'S RENT
AFTER YOU'VE DONE THIS JOB FOR ME, I'LL LEAVE YOU WITH SOME USEFUL ADVICE
NOW GET A SHAVE, GET YOUR HAIR IN ORDER, AND GO OUT THERE WITH YOUR MOST HANDSOME APPEARANCE...
SO DON'T DISAPPOINT YOUR CLIENT THIS EVENING.
...THE SAME WAY YOU DID BEFORE...
BYE BYE, JOHN
WELL, NOT ONLY DID I SHAVE...
...AND GET MY HAIR DONE!

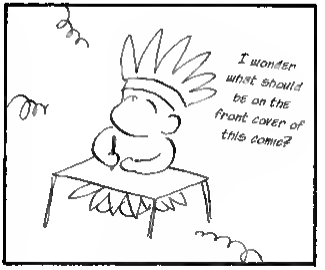
I HAD TO WEAR THIS TIE TO GET IN! DON'T PICK A PLACE WITH SUCH A TOUGH DRESS CODE! WHAT A HASSLE!
HEY, IT'S ALREADY OPEN.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
AFTER PAYING THE BILL FOR THIS SUITE ALONE
. I'VE GONE OVER MY BUDGET ALREADY

DOES THAT MAKE ME A POOR CLIENT?
SO THAT'S WHY...
...EVEN A KISS WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ME.
.....
.....
NOT A PROBLEM.
...HOLD ME TIGHT IN YOUR ARMS...
AS LONG AS YOU
...SURROUND ME WITH PLENTY OF LOVE...
...AND KISS ME FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES...

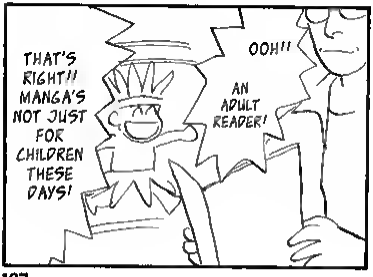
COME!
END

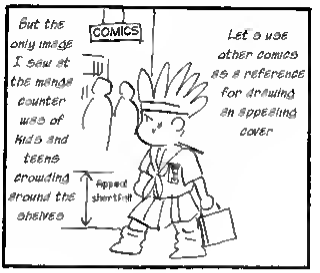

COMICS


Mitsumete Itai
YES! I'LL SHOW THE FEELINGS OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS AS THEY WATCH EACH OTHER!
Nishida Higashi


I wonder what should be on the front cover of this comic?

...can't see the appeal...?
I..


THAT'S RIGHT!! MANGA'S NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN THESE DAYS!
OOH!!
AN ADULT READER!


But the only image I saw at the manga counter was of kids and teens crowding around the shelves
COMICS
Appeal: short-lived
Let's use other comics as a reference for drawing an appealing cover

OH NO! I WAS SO SCARED I DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT ANY OF THE MANGA COVERS!
MEAT BUNS
CHOKY A LA CREME
Hair streaked with grey
BUT HE LOOKED CREEPY!
Seen in a Kobe book-store.
Mole
THEY'RE LEAVING TOO MUCH OUT!
THE 'SKIN AND BONES' DRAWING TECHNIQUE!
NO WAY! I'LL NEVER MAKE PEOPLE SO THIN!
A HA HA HA
AND YOUKO-SAN IS DETERMINED TO REMAIN MISERABLE!
boo hoo
I KNEW IT! CARLOS BECOMES A CRIPPLE!
AHA! THE CLASSIC MASTER-PIECES!
LET'S LOOK AT MY OWN MANGA COLLECTION FOR INSPIRATION!
riffle riffle
YOU'RE RIFFING OFF A HIT GENRE!!
CUTE BOW-CHAN (Mitsumete Itai)
YOU PUT YOURSELF THERE BY ACCIDENT?!
Mitsumete Itai
YOU DARE TO USE MINOR CHARACTERS ON THE COVER?!
Mitsumete Itai
I wonder what should be on the front cover?
THE END

御感想などのお便りは、〒112-8580 （株）芳文社
花音編集部 西田　東先生係へお送りください。

◆初出一覧

見つめていたい	2003年花音1月号
許して欲しくない	2003年花音2月号
もう苦しめたくない	2003年花音6月号
プラトニック	描きおろし（2004年花音6月号一部掲載）
オレがいるから［前編］	2003年花音10月号
オレがいるから［後編］	2003年花音11月号
夢の果て	2003年MAXシリーズ㉒ 天使の誘惑／男娼特集

花音コミックス◆

見つめていたい

2004年7月15日　初版発行　〈検印廃止〉
2004年7月25日　第2刷発行

著者◎ 西田 東
発行者 古島當夫
発行所 株式会社 芳文社

〒112-8580 東京都文京区後楽1－2－12
電話 03（3815）1521（代）
振替 00110-8-174056
カラー印刷 大熊整美堂　印刷所 赤城印刷株式会社　製本所 株式会社三森製本所

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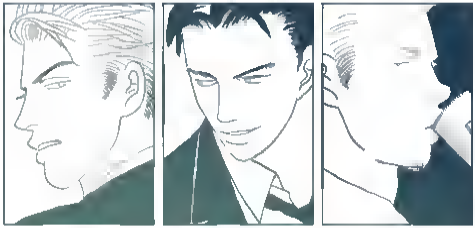
ISBN4-8322-8302-2



"ORE GA IRU KARA"

[Because I'll Be There]

Chapters 5 6 of *Mitsumete Itai*

A two-part story by Nishida Higashi

ISBN 4-8322-8302-2
First published 2004
Publisher Hanaoto Comics, Houbunsha

A Half-baked scanlation
URL http://lyrebird.nfshost.com/halfbaked/

TRANSLATION NOTES

Sempai: title for senior. Also spelled as 'senpai'.

Kohai: title for junior.

Sempai-kohai relations: institutionalized equivalent of the mentor-protege relationship. Sempai/seniors are expected to provide guidence to kohai, look after their interests, and act as counselor. Kohai/juniors are expected to respect their sempai, learn from their exemple, follow instructions and carry out menial tasks when requested.

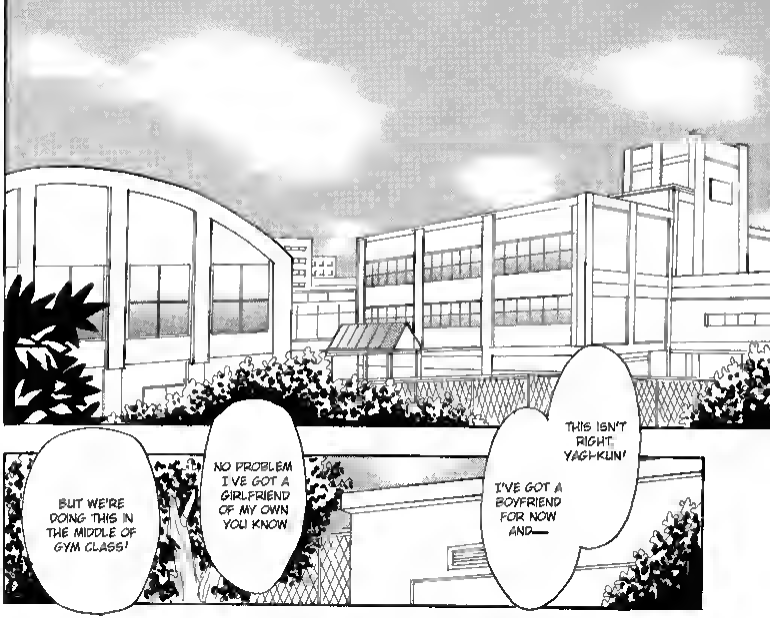
The relationship persists long after the individuals have left the same institution or school. Adults will often refer to former schoolmates or workmates as sempai or kohai.

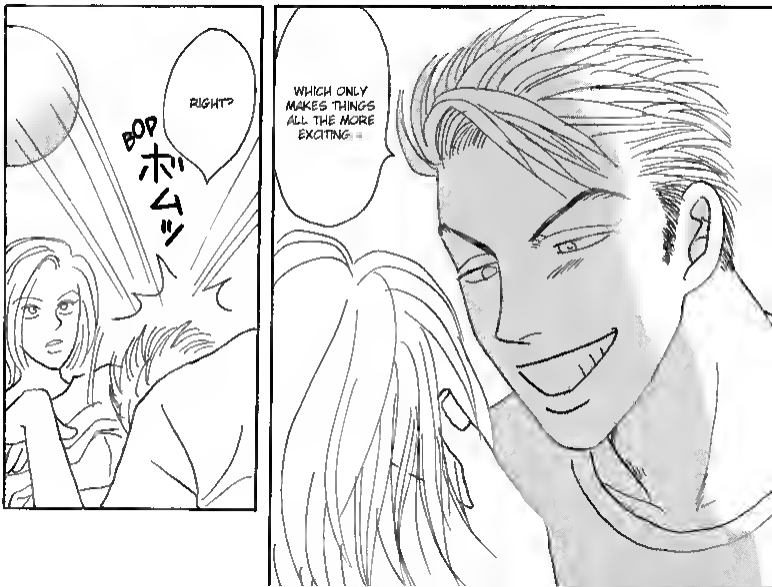
[Paraphrased from the introduction to *Here is Greenwood* by Yukie Nesu, *Viz Comics* English edition. Written by William Flanagan.]

オレがいるから[前編]

ORE GA IRU KARA [PART 1]

— BECAUSE I'LL BE THERE —


THIS ISN'T RIGHT, YAGI-KUN!
I'VE GOT A BOYFRIEND FOR NOW AND—
NO PROBLEM I'VE GOT A GIRLFRIEND OF MY OWN YOU KNOW
BUT WE'RE DOING THIS IN THE MIDDLE OF GYM CLASS!


WHICH ONLY MAKES THINGS ALL THE MORE EXCITING
RIGHT?
BOP
ボイン

rustle
KYAA!
OWW!
AH...
KARINO, YOU JERK! YOU SURE PICKED ONE HELLUVA TIME TO INTERRUPT US!
HEY, HANG ON A MINUTE!
ENOUGH, IDIOT! MY IMAGE AS AN INNOCENT GIRL IS RUINED!
WE WERE ONLY FOOLING AROUND!
SHIT! HOW COULD SHE RUN OFF LIKE THAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH HER ANYWAY? YOU'RE SKIPPING GYM CLASS.
RETURN THE BALL
THIS BALL?

HUH?
toss
ポイ
HERE!
KEEP OUT
MY BAD, MY BAD!
MY HAND MUST'VE THROWN IT OVER BY ACCIDENT
I WONDER HOW YOU'RE GONNA GET IT BACK—
SENSEI! YAGI'S SKIPPING GYM CLASS AND DOING GROSS STUFF!
THUD
THUD
HUH? SO THAT'S YOUR REACTION?
YAGI AGAIN! YOU LITTLE— WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
N-NOTHING! I HAD A BIT OF A STOMACH ACHE AND A HEADACHE SO
I DECIDED TO DO MY OWN STUDY PROJECT ON THE LOCAL WOOD LICE FOR SCIENCE CLASS!

I SUPPOSE THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU SCREW AROUND DURING SCHOOL HOURS
SHIT! YOU'RE IN BIG TROUBLE, YAGI! THEY'LL CALL YOUR PARENTS FOR SURE!
3-A
I SWEAR I WAS DOING MY BEST TO AVOID BEING CAUGHT
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A PEEPING TOM SOMEWHERE WHO'S GONNA TELL ON ME. RIGHT, KARINO?
DID YOU GET HARD WATCHING US?
DID YOU VISIT THE TOILETS ALREADY TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF?
SMACK
KYAA! I'M SO SCARED!
YOU'RE MAKING AN ENEMY OUT OF HIM, YOU KNOW
WHO IS HE?
YOU THINK I'D BOTHER BEING ENEMIES WITH HIM? HE'S AN IDIOT

LATELY THAT GUY AND OTHER STUDENTS - SECOND YEARS OR SOMETHING - THEY THINK THEY CAN WALK IN AND OUT OF OUR ROOM LIKE THEY OWN THE PLACE!
AHH, YOU THINK?
THAT GUY'S FROM THE CLASS NEXT DOOR. HE'S IN THE RUGBY CLUB
DON'T WIND THEM UP. WITH ALL THAT MUSCLE THEY'RE CARRYING, THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO BACK OFF FROM A FIGHT!
WHO AM I? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, JERK?
BUT I SUPPOSE SOMEONE WOULD'VE NOTICED I WAS MISSING SOONER OR LATER.
..IN ANY CASE
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, KARINO SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME IN THE RUGBY CLUBROOM WHEN HE'S NOT IN CLASS. IF ONLY HE'D BEEN JOGGING AROUND THE SPORTS FIELD INSTEAD OF CHASING THAT BALL.
SO THERE'S NO HARD FEELINGS. WE'RE UNLIKELY TO EVER GET TOGETHER FOR A CHAT ANYWAY.

AHA!
I REMEMBER I WAS HERE LAST WEEK WITH THAT GIRL WHO RAN AWAY
NOW THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO WHEN I GET HOME
SHOULD I LOOK FOR A CASUAL JOB OR A NEW GIRL?
IT'S A TRICKY CHOICE
OR IS IT? I CAN ALWAYS LOOK FOR A JOB IN THE FUTURE RIGHT?
P.E. PREP ROOM
CLOSED YES MEN STOREROOM FOR EQUIPMENT
WELL... FIRST OF ALL I NEED A SMOKE
ガタン CLUNK
THUD バタン
HM?
ガラ SLIDE
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU THINK YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE IN MY HANGOUT?

ERR... YOU'RE NOT... RAPING HIM, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY
SLIDE
SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU
N-NO! I WAS JUST PASSING BY
UNLESS YOU WANT TO TAKE HIS PLACE?
YO! GET OUT OF HERE
NO!
AH...
SEMPAI ...
SEE! HE'S GOT IT BAD HE ALREADY CAME BEFORE
HE'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE AGAIN
SHOVE
NO...
DOES IT LOOK LIKE RAPE? TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT HIM

YOU SEEN ENOUGH OVER THERE?
A REAL LIVE MONEY SHOT, DAMMIT!
flinch
ARGH!
flinch
AH...
YAMK
I...
SLIDE
NO MORE! I BELIEVE YOU!
EH?
THEY NEVER REVEAL ENOUGH OF THE BLOW-BY-BLOW DETAILS, HUH? SO HERE YOU GO! I'LL SHOW YOU THE SATISFIED LOOK ON HIS FACE!
NO!
ERR...
LOSED

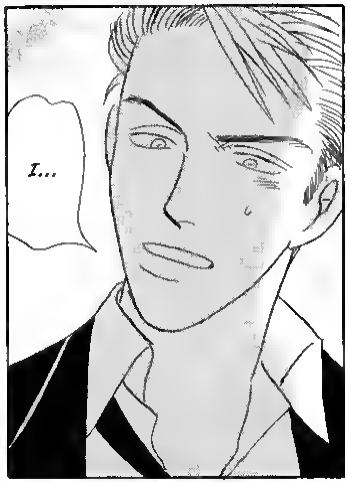
NOTE: The label on the can reads Quality Men s Hairspray

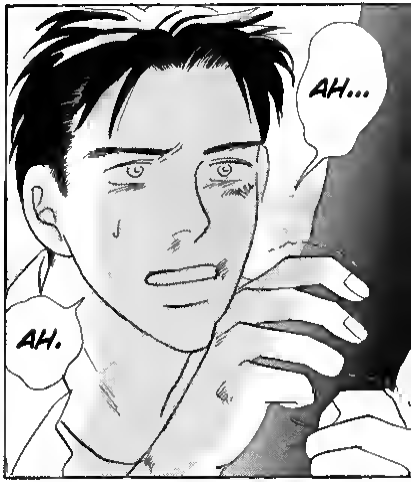
HEY YOU! WAIT UP!
IF YOU CAN RUN, HURRY! THAT'S IT... COME ON!
HURRY UP!
KARINO? KARINO!
WHAT THE...
COUGH! COUGH! CHOKE!
HUFF
IF HE CATCHES US HE'LL KILL US FOR SURE!
I THOUGHT HE WENT INTO PRO WRESTLING!
WHAT'S A FORMER STUDENT LIKE HIM DOING HERE?
RUSTLE

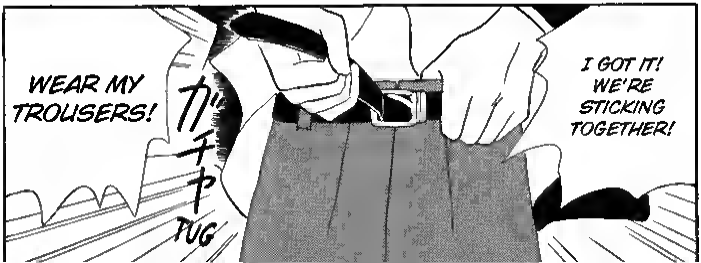
SAY SOME-THING...
I...
I'M ALL RIGHT.
I'LL FIND MY WAY HOME.
YO!
YOU ALL RIGHT, KARINO?
YOU...
huff
huff
huff
MY CLOTHES...
I'VE GOT NO UNDER-PANTS...
OR TROUSERS...
YEAH...
MY CLOTHES...
YOU LOOK A MESS AND YOU'RE IN SHOCK YOU'RE NOT STEADY ON YOUR FEET
YOU'RE GOING HOME LIKE THAT?

GRAB
IT'S ALL RIGHT! I LEFT MY JERSEY BEHIND!
I'LL GO BACK AND GET IT ALONG WITH YOUR BAG AND OTHER STUFF.
NO!

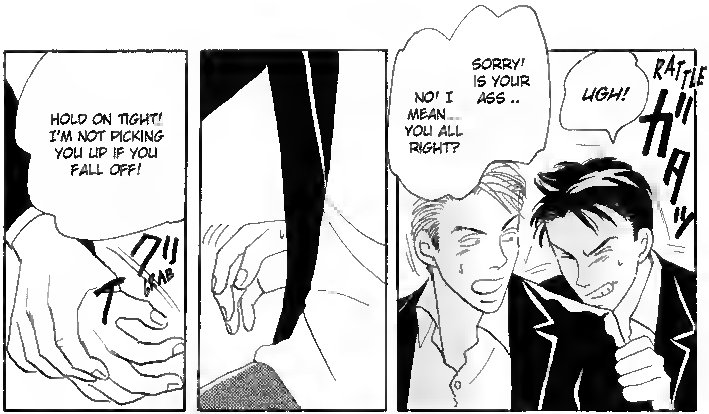
IT'S...
W-WHAT DO I DO?
MY TROUSERS ARE...
Unbuckled
Unzipped

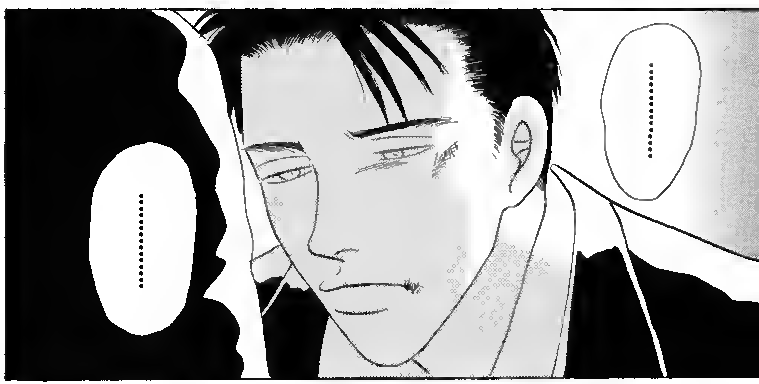

I...


AH...
AH.


WEAR MY TROUSERS!
ガチャ
TUG
I GOT IT! WE'RE STICKING TOGETHER!

SHUT UP! WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE AT SCHOOL? HURRY UP AND GO HOME!
KYAAA! HAHAHA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YAGI?! A STRIP-TEASE?
YOU WANNA SHOW US YOUR PEE-PEE?
WALKING YOU HOME WOULD'VE BEEN EASIER THAN THIS...
SHIT!
THAT DAMN TEACHER! WHY DID HE MAKE ME RIDE THIS CRAPPY BIKE?


HOLD ON TIGHT! I'M NOT PICKING YOU UP IF YOU FALL OFF!
GRAB
SORRY! IS YOUR ASS ..
NO! I MEAN... YOU ALL RIGHT?
UGH!
RATTLE
HAY


.....
.....

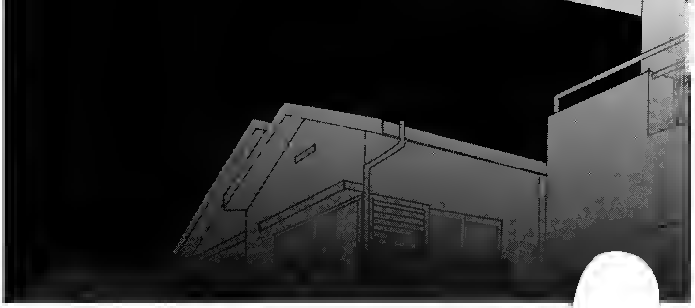
SEMPAI ...
Sniff
HE DID ALL THOSE THINGS TO ME...
Sob
Sob
SEMPAI...

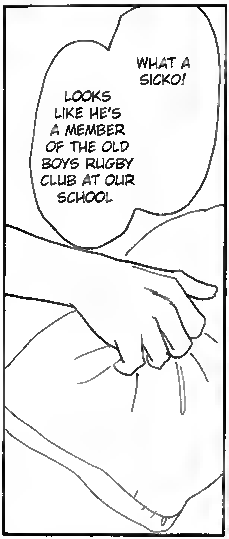
HE'S A NASTY GUY HE'S DONE A GOOD JOB OF PUNCHING YOU UP
UH-HUH
WON'T YOUR PARENTS ASK ABOUT YOUR FACE? YOU WANT ME TO MAKE UP SOME SORT OF EXCUSE FOR YOU?
I'LL BE FINE

WHAT? WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
.....
stare

YOUR TROUSERS
THEY LOOK BRAND NEW, SO I SHOULD RETURN THEM...
IT'S FINE. I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE THEM TO THE DRY CLEANERS ANYWAY
KEEP THEM. IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THEM, THAT'S FINE TOO

THANKS




WHAT A SICKO!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S A MEMBER OF THE OLD BOYS RUGBY CLUB AT OUR SCHOOL

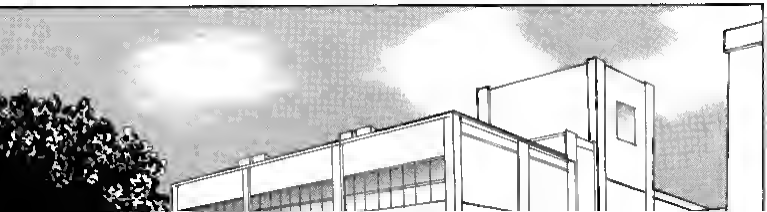
IF THAT SEMPAI WANTS TO PUNCH HOLES IN ME, FINE.
I'M READY TO TAKE HIM ON WHATEVER HAPPENS
I... HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE SATISFIED WITH THAT?
THANKS, HE SAYS.
BUSTY BABES
TITS TITS TITS!
CAR

DOES HE CARRY HIS CELLPHONE WITH HIM OR NOT? I'LL ASK HIM TOMORROW.
I COULD SEND A TEXT MESSAGE...
SHOULD I GIVE HIM A CALL? I WONDER IF I'D BE BOTHERING HIM
KARINO'S PROBABLY DOING SOMETHING
stroke stroke

I WOULD'VE HELD HIM FIRST... LIKE THIS.
I WOULD'VE TREATED HIM WITH TENDER-NESS...
SQUEEZE
...LIKE THIS.
HOLDING HIM CLOSE...
...AND KISSING HIM.

SMOOCH

I'M NOT GONNA COME!
THINKING ABOUT HIM WHILE I JERK OFF IS COMPLETELY—
BUT— IT'S SO. DON'T GO THERE!
OOH~~



KARINO!
WHAT A RELIEF! HE LOOKS CHEERFUL, HUH?
YAY!
OUT OF MY WAY! MOVE IT!
WHAT'S GOING ON, YAGI? WHY THE RUSH?
HE'S COMING THROUGH! BETTER WATCH OUT!
ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?
HUH? BUT I SAID YOU COULD KEEP THEM!
SLIDE
I LEFT THE TROUSERS ON YOUR DESK. THEY'RE AS GOOD AS NEW!
YEAH, UMM...

I'VE DECIDED TO EXPLAIN TO EVERYONE THAT IT WAS ALL A BAD JOKE...
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY... I...
ERR...
I WASN'T ABOUT TO TELL EVERYONE! I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
I-I'M ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ALL OVER AND EVERY-THING'S FINE.
SEE YOU
WHAT THE
I BET HE THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BLAB ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!
DID HE THINK I'D GOSSIP ABOUT SEEING HIM DOING BAD STUFF WITH THAT BAD GUY?
IF HE THINKS I'D SINK SO LOW

HE MIGHT WANT TO FORGET THE WHOLE EPISODE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
IT'S NATURAL FOR HIM TO BE WORRIED ABOUT OTHERS FINDING OUT
I WONDER IF I REMIND HIM OF THAT GUY
BUT I GET THE FEELING HE'S EVEN MORE DESPERATE TO FORGET ALL ABOUT ME
OR DOES HE SIMPLY WANT TO PUT THE ENTIRE INCIDENT BEHIND HIM?
HE WON'T EVER BREAK INTO TEARS LIKE THAT AGAIN, WILL HE?
IF ONLY I DIDN'T CARE

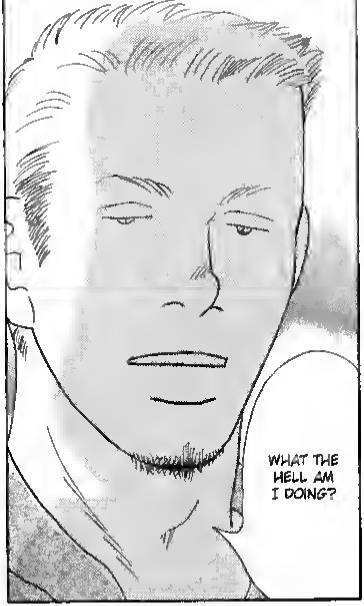
THIS IS BAD! DANGER, DANGER!
scramble
WELL, AS LONG AS I KEEP TRACK OF WHEN THE OLD BOYS MEET
IF I SEE HIM, I'LL EXECUTE A QUICK GETAWAY
KYAA!
AND IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE THAT MONTROUS SEMPAI TO ALSO FORGET HE EVER SAW ME
GEEZ, I MIGHT AS WELL FORGET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING, TOO
HEY YOU!

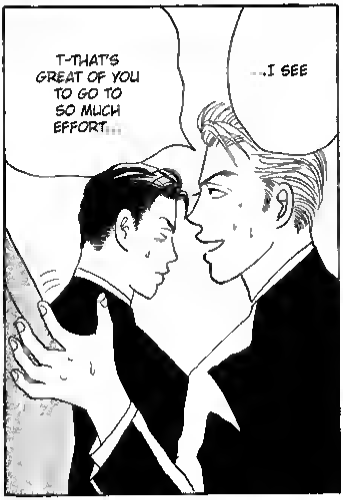
GRAB
グイ
YANK
ガッ
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH KARINO?!

ORE GA IRU KARA [PART 2]

— BECAUSE I'LL BE THERE —

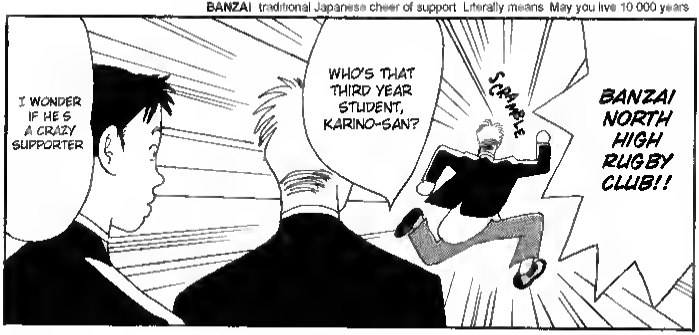
オレがいるから[後編]

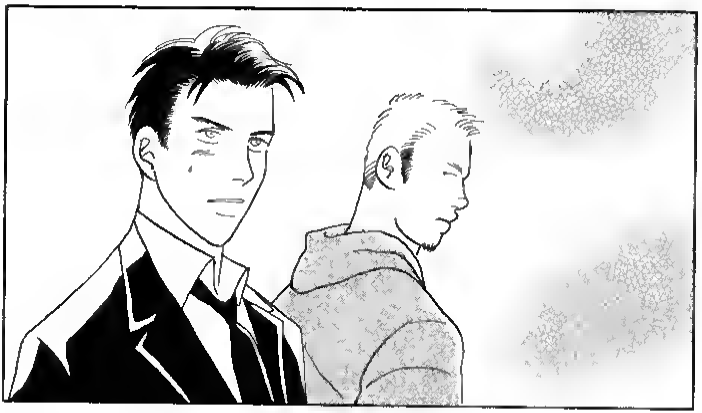

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?


T-THAT'S GREAT OF YOU TO GO TO SO MUCH EFFORT...
...I SEE

I JUST CAME BY TO CHECK OUT THE KOHAI CLUB MEETING YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

BANZAI traditional Japanese cheer of support. Literally means: May you live 10,000 years



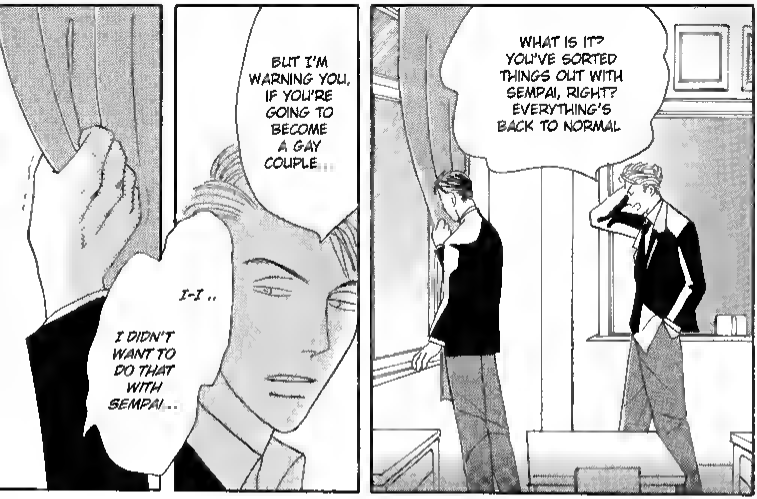


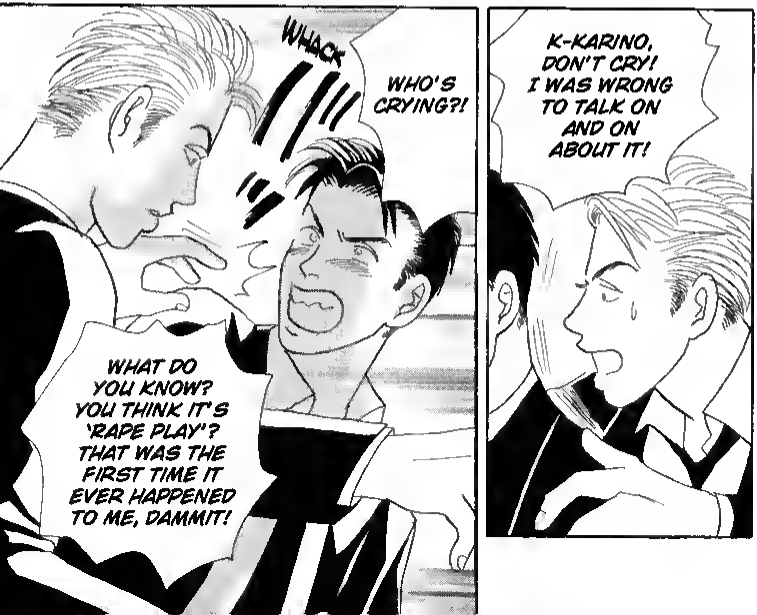
YEAH, IF IT'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER IN THE DAY, I APOLOGIZE
BUT WE NEED TO TALK.

OH, SASAKI AND I ARE GOING OUT HE'S WAITING FOR ME
BAD TIME FOR ME. I GOTTA RUSH TODAY.
YOU GOT A SPARE MINUTE?
CLATTER

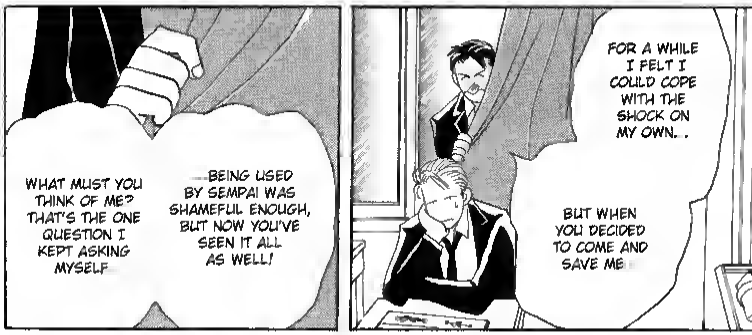
...SASAKI'S GONNA LEAVE WITHOUT ME.
SAG

FROM NOW ON, I'LL LEAVE THE TWO OF YOU ALONE THE NEXT TIME I CATCH YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR RAPE-PLAY!
EVERYTHING'S GOOD, RIGHT? YOU WERE ABOUT TO MAKE UP WITH SEMPAI WHEN I CAME BARGING IN LIKE A MANIAC
HAVE ALL THE FUN YOU WANT!


BUT I'M WARNING YOU, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A GAY COUPLE...
I-I ..
I DIDN'T WANT TO DO THAT WITH SEMPAI...
WHAT IS IT? YOU'VE SORTED THINGS OUT WITH SEMPAI, RIGHT? EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL

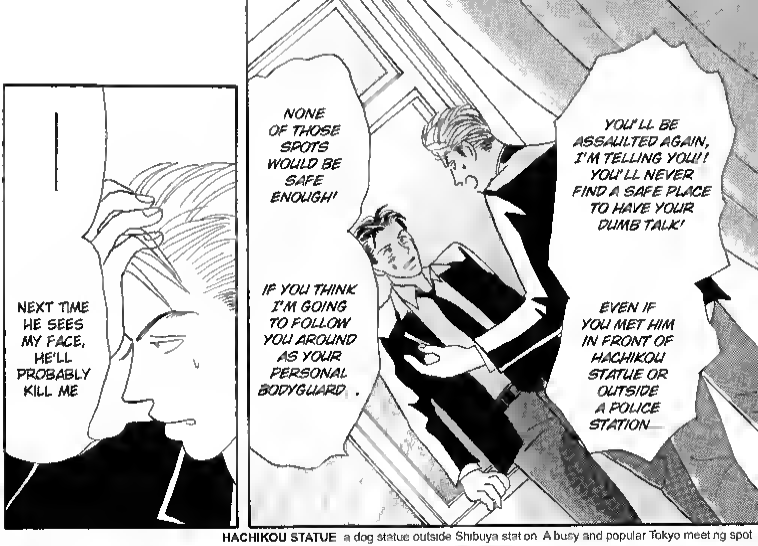

WHACK
WHO'S CRYING?!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW? YOU THINK IT'S 'RAPE PLAY'? THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME IT EVER HAPPENED TO ME, DAMMIT!
K-KARINO, DON'T CRY! I WAS WRONG TO TALK ON AND ON ABOUT IT!

DON'T STARE AT ME, YOU SEX MANIAC! IS THAT ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR? GET LOST!
BAM
IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE OUTSET THERE WAS NO WAY OUT OF THE SITUATION, SO THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP WITH HIM.
BUT BETWEEN HIM HAVING HIS WAY WITH ME AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT WAS GOING ON...

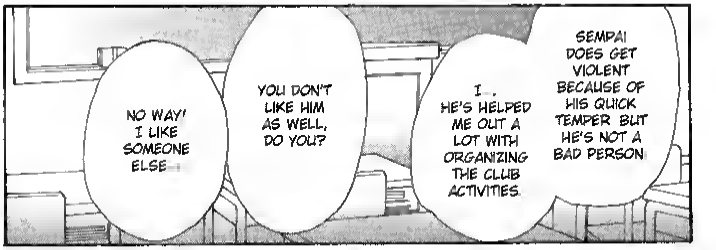

WHAT MUST YOU THINK OF ME? THAT'S THE ONE QUESTION I KEPT ASKING MYSELF
—BEING USED BY SEMPAI WAS SHAMEFUL ENOUGH, BUT NOW YOU'VE SEEN IT ALL AS WELL!
FOR A WHILE I FELT I COULD COPE WITH THE SHOCK ON MY OWN. .
BUT WHEN YOU DECIDED TO COME AND SAVE ME

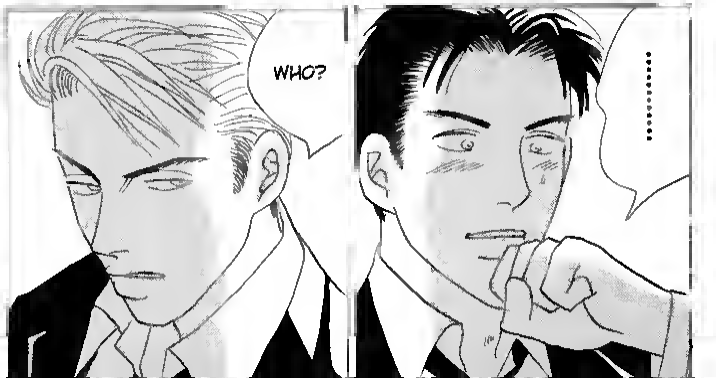
—AFTER WHAT HAPPENED
MY BODY—
—STILL FEELS STRANGE, YOU KNOW—

SO DID SEMPAI EXPLAIN TO YOU LATER WHY HE BEHAVED LIKE THAT?
EH?
HUH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I SEE...
YOU WERE ABOUT TO SHOOT YOUR THIRD STRAIGHT LOAD IN ONE DAY. USUALLY I...
HOW THE HELL CAN HE SAY SUCH CRAP AFTER RAPING YOU?!
HE SAID WHAT?
HE TOLD ME HE CARES ABOUT ME...
WELL...
I GOT A CALL FROM SEMPAI APOLOGIZING FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME
ARE YOU A TOTAL IDIOT?!
WE'VE DECIDED TO GET TOGETHER THIS EVENING NEAR MY PLACE...
THAT'S THE REASON WHY SEMPAI WANTED TO MEET UP FOR A PROPER TALK EARLIER, BUT...
SLAP
AND YOU FORGAVE HIM AFTER HEARING THAT?!


NEXT TIME HE SEES MY FACE, HE'LL PROBABLY KILL ME
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND AS YOUR PERSONAL BODYGUARD...
NONE OF THOSE SPOTS WOULD BE SAFE ENOUGH!
YOU'LL BE ASSAULTED AGAIN, I'M TELLING YOU!! YOU'LL NEVER FIND A SAFE PLACE TO HAVE YOUR DUMB TALK!
EVEN IF YOU MET HIM IN FRONT OF HACHIKOU STATUE OR OUTSIDE A POLICE STATION

HACHIKOU STATUE a dog statue outside Shibuya station. A busy and popular Tokyo meeting spot.

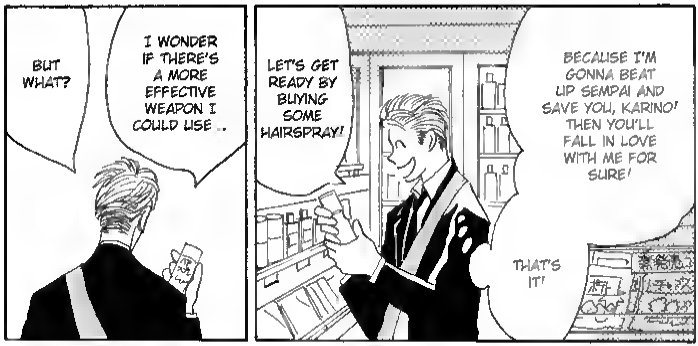

NO WAY! I LIKE SOMEONE ELSE...
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM AS WELL, DO YOU?
I... HE'S HELPED ME OUT A LOT WITH ORGANIZING THE CLUB ACTIVITIES.
SEMPAI DOES GET VIOLENT BECAUSE OF HIS QUICK TEMPER BUT HE'S NOT A BAD PERSON



YOU IDIOT! IDIOT! YOU BETTER ASK FOR AN ESCORT WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM!
.....
SMASH
DON'T TELL ME THIS PERSON'S A GUY.
EVEN IF I DO LIKE THIS OTHER PERSON..
. NO, I MEAN LIKE AS IN
DON'T TALK TO ME ABOUT IT!
DO WHAT YOU WANT! YOU'VE GOT THE CHOICE OF EITHER PROTECTING YOURSELF OR BEING RAPED!
GOOD LUCK WITH FINDING SOMEONE TO SORT OUT YOUR NEXT HOMO DISPUTE!
NO ERR... HE'S NOT LIKE THAT...
SLAM

WHO'S THIS GUY HE LIKES?
WHO IS HE?
BISHOUNEN Beautiful boy
A youth with androgynous looks
PEOPLE ALSO TOLD ME I LOOKED LIKE A GIRL WHEN I WAS A KID! I COULD'VE TURNED OUT LIKE HIM IF I'D BEEN SPOILED BY THE OLD LADIES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
OR IS IT NONOMURA THAT DEVILISH BISHOUNEN WHO SITS AT THE FRONT OF THE CLASS!
GERMAN POETRY
DOES HE OFTEN GO OUT WITH ETOU FROM THE RUGBY CLUB?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS THAT I CAN TALK MORE SENSE THAN THAT GORILLA?
DOES THIS MEAN I CAN ONLY WATCH OVER HIM LIKE SOME GUARD DOG?
WHY?
WHY ISN'T IT ME?

EVEN IF KARINO PREFERS SOME OTHER GUY, I BETTER ACCOMPANY HIM TO THIS MEETING TONIGHT
NO I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN
WATCH WHILE HE'S RAPED BY THAT DAMN SEMPAI, THEN SEE HIM BAWL HIS EYES OUT?


BUT WHAT?
I WONDER IF THERE'S A MORE EFFECTIVE WEAPON I COULD USE..
LET'S GET READY BY BUYING SOME HAIRSPRAY!
BECAUSE I'M GONNA BEAT UP SEMPAI AND SAVE YOU, KARINO! THEN YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME FOR SURE!
THAT'S IT!

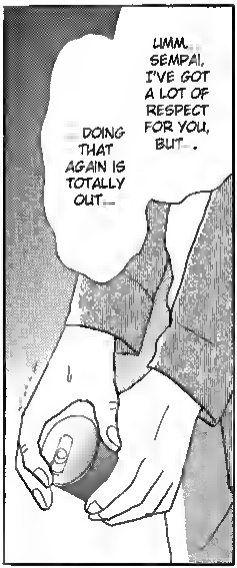
WHAT ON EARTH AM I DOING HERE?
weary
I FOUND OUT THIS PARK IS NEAR HIS HOUSE, BUT WHERE IS HE?
WHAT TIME DID THEY ARRANGE TO MEET?

THAT IDIOT'S BY HIM-SELF!!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN AROUND THIS PARK TWICE ALREADY...
AHA!

KARINO!
. .OF COURSE, KARINO WOULD HAVE TO BE THE CUTEST
AND THE CHOICES CAME DOWN TO A CUTE GIRL VERSUS A FLAT-CHESTED KARINO...
IF I HAD TO JUDGE WHO WAS THE CUTEST PERSON I'D EVER SEEN ANYWHERE
wavering

AND WHAT'S WITH THAT CUTE AND HELPLESS LOOK HE'S WEARING?!
IT'S AS IF HE'S ASKING TO BE HELD TIGHT AND SCREWED AGAIN!

SO WHY AREN'T YOU PLANNING TO GO TO MY UNIVERSITY WHEN YOU FINISH SCHOOL? DIDN'T YOU RECEIVE AN ACCEPTANCE LETTER?
AH, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
HERE!
T-THAT'S NOT IT...
I'M THERE FOR YOU... YET YOU DON'T WANT MY HELP?
N-NO! IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
MY INSTITUTION PROVIDES BOTH STUDENT LOANS AS WELL AS SCHOLARSHIPS I'LL INQUIRE AT THE STUDENT OFFICE FOR YOU
THAT'S RIGHT. PLUS THE FAMILY BUDGET IS A BIT TIGHT AT MY PLACE...


UMM... SEMPAI, I'VE GOT A LOT OF RESPECT FOR YOU, BUT...
DOING THAT AGAIN IS TOTALLY OUT—

F-FORGET IT. I'VE ALREADY PUT ALL THAT BEHIND ME
WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN, YOU KNOW
NEXT TIME I'LL TAKE IT SLOW AND EASY..

IDIOT KARINO! WHY ISN'T HE SAYING SOME-- THING?!

.....
I COULD TELL YOU'D BEEN SAVING YOURSELF WHEN WE DID IT.
YOU'VE GOT NO GIRL-FRIEND OR ANYTHING

YANK
KARINO?
WHAT DO YOU SAY...
BUT THIS IS WHAT WE CAN DO ONCE IN A WHILE TO HELP EACH OTHER FEEL GOOD.
I KNOW YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO ADMIT THAT YOU'VE FALLEN FOR ME...
YOU HAVEN'T GOT THE SELF-AWARENESS BUT YOU'VE GOT NATURAL TALENT, YOU KNOW.
IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF HIS SEMP...I? IS THAT GUY SO TERRIFYING?
...YET HOW CAN HE ACT LIKE A JITTERY ERROR-PRONE KLUTZ NOW?!
IN CLASS IT ALWAYS ANNOYED ME WHEN HE ACTED SO ALOOF...

LEAD
IT FEELS GOOD...
...WHEN I TOUCH YOU HERE!

CRASH
ドテ
つるっ
SLIP

THERE'S A GUY I LIKE

SEMPAI...
WHAT WAS THAT? WHO'S OVER THERE?

REALLY?
WHY SHOULD THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

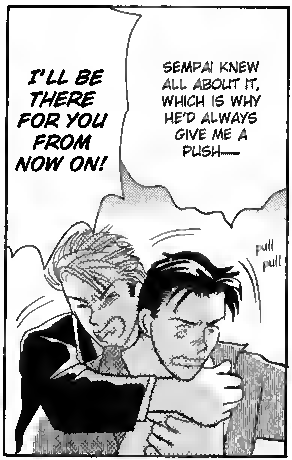
BUT I'LL BE IMAGINING I'M WITH THE GUY I LIKE THE ENTIRE TIME
GO RIGHT AHEAD
YOU MAY APPEAR TO BE IN FRONT OF ME..
PLEASE GO AHEAD AND DO WHATEVER YOU WANT WITH ME
I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT ONE DAY I'LL DO ALL THESE THINGS WITH HIM
SO AS LONG AS THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM
UGH...
fumble

SHOVE
TCH! YOU'RE A FRICKING TURN-OFF!
STOP! STOP!
YOU'RE NOT SO BIG.
PSSH
CRUSH
SEMPAI!
HMM? KARINO?
WAS IT ANY USE AT ALL?
stride

THE OTHER MEMBERS TRUST ME A LOT AND RELY ON ME TO ORGANIZE THINGS.
BUT SEMPAI'S LEAVING ME! I COULD MANAGE THE CLUB PROVIDING I HAD SOMEONE TO DEPEND ON!
BUT THE FACT IS I'M TOTALLY HOPELESS AT IT!

I ENDED UP OFFENDING HIM. I MUST APOLOGIZE.
WHAT ARE YOU CHASING HIM FOR?! YOU JUST WENT TO ALL THAT EFFORT TO REJECT HIM!
APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT?! IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO RAPE YOU AGAIN!

...I ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE HOPELESS WITHOUT HIM.
YOU SEE, I—
NO— UMM


I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU FROM NOW ON!
SEMPAI KNEW ALL ABOUT IT, WHICH IS WHY HE'D ALWAYS GIVE ME A PUSH—
pull pull

I'VE FALLEN HARD FOR YOU, EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE SO HOPELESS.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
SURE, THERE'S SOME GUY YOU LIKE...
BUT UNTIL THINGS WORK OUT BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU, I'LL TAKE THE PLACE OF YOUR SEMPAI.
SOMEHOW I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH YOU NEED.
BUT I WON'T MAKE YOU CRY...
AT THE VERY LEAST... AT THE VERY LEAST, I'LL TAKE THE PLACE OF YOUR SEMPAI.

YAGI..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE SEMPAI'S PLACE OR ANYTHING..
..BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE I—
YOU—?
HEY, YOU'RE BLEEDING.

WHAT DID HE DO TO YOU JUST THEN?
I-I'M ALL RIGHT
LET ME TAKE A QUICK LOOK
DID HE SCRATCH YOU WITH HIS NAILS? HE'S SICK!
IT'S ALL RIGHT
THE BLOOD'S STILL OOZING... DOES IT HURT?
.....
HURP
HURP
HURP
.....
.....

I'M SORRY... I'M DOING THE SAME THING AS THAT GUY.
NO, YOU'RE NOT.
.....
AAH!
TWITCH
IT'S NO USE NOW! IT'S TOO LATE! I HEARD YOU! YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK!
I MEAN... WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
I WANTED YOU TO MOVE CLOSE TO ME...
AFTER WE KISS, WE CAN START GOING ALL THE WAY!
SLOW DOWN!
We're both grown men!
M-MY FACE... THAT'S ENOUGH...
chuu
chuu
KISS, KISS, KISS, KISS, KISS, KISS! KISS ME! KISS, KISS!

I... I CAN'T BREATHE...
.....
YEAH... ME EITHER...

CHUU~
NNGH!
MMF!
squirm squirm

AHH!
YAH!
DON'T MOAN IN SUCH A SWEET VOICE, IDIOT!
HEY! YOU'RE AFFECTING ME IN A BAD WAY!
AHH!

W-WAIT! I'LL TRY SUCKING YOU OFF!
POW POW
DON'T DO THAT! IT'S FILTHY! IT'S GROSS!

I'M GONNA COME! WHAT'S WITH YOU? LET'S COME TOGETHER!
AH... W-WHAT'S THE RUSH? WHAT'S YOUR HAND DOING THERE?

AAH...
AH!
HAA...
...HAA!

.....
WHO'S THIS GUY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LIKE?
SO TELL ME...
END

I'LL BE WATCHING YOU
(Mitsumete Itai)

Chapters 1-4 by Nishida Higashi

ISBN 4-8322-8302-2
First published 2004
Publisher Hanaoto Comics, Houbunsha

Chapter 2 translation note:
An MP3 of the children's song Zousan
is included in this zip (downloaded from
www.thejapanesepage.com)

"Elephant san Elephant san
You have a long nose, don't you?
That's true!
My mother has a long one, too."

Half-baked translation lyrebird
Scans+edits lyrebird

URL http://lyrebird.anthune.org/halfbaked/

NISHIDA HIGASHI

西田東

見つめていたい

I'LL BE WATCHING YOU

花音

花音

見つめていたい

西田東

9784832283022

1929979005627

ISBN4-8322-8302-2

C9979 ¥562E

雑誌 51353−34

定価：本体562円+税

SERIOUS SECTION-CHIEF YAMAGUCHI IS HAVING DOUBTS ABOUT HIS SEXUAL LIAISONS WITH THE OUTWARDLY-IMMATURE ABE KAZUKI. HE'S CONVINCED ABE ONLY ENJOYS MAKING FUN OF HIM AND WILL SOON GROW BORED WITH THEIR AFFAIR. ABE DOESN'T ANSWER HIS PHONE, SPENDS MORE MONEY THAN HE EARNS AND EVEN BRINGS A WOMAN TO ONE OF THEIR MEETINGS! BUT IN SPITE OF ABE'S INEPTITUDE HOW CAN YAMAGUCHI LET HIM GO WHEN HE CARES FOR ABE AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGMENT?

HOWEVER, WHEN ABE UNEXPECTEDLY REVEALS A LONGING FOR SOMETHING MORE, YAMAGUCHI HAS THE URGE TO ADD MORE SIZZLE TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP BUT CAN A MATURE ADULT WITH MULTIPLE COMMITMENTS AFFORD TO BE SO FRIVOLOUS? IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE OF HIS COMMITMENTS THAT HE CANNOT BE OPEN ABOUT HIS FEELINGS. CAN HE?

MORE AWKWARD MALE CHARACTERS FEATURE IN THIS VOLUME OF PASSIONATE LOVE STORIES. THIS IS ANOTHER PUBLICATION FROM THE TREMENDOUSLY POPULAR MANGAKA NISHIDA HIGASHI THAT WILL SURELY SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF HER READERS!

NISHIDA HIGASHI

HIGASHI NISHIDA presents

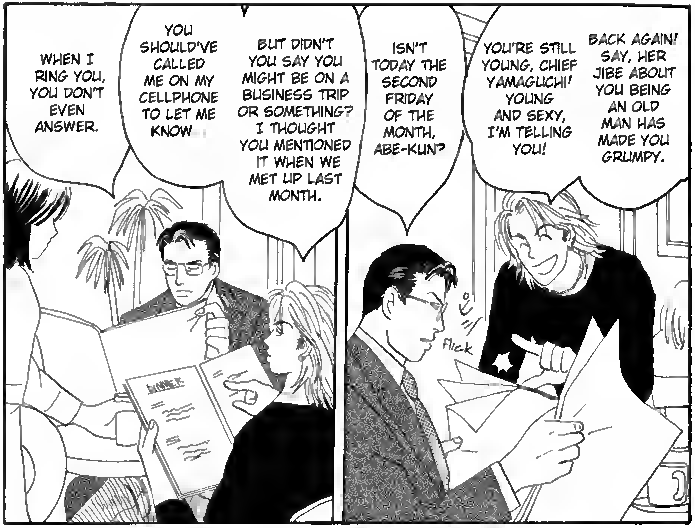
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU

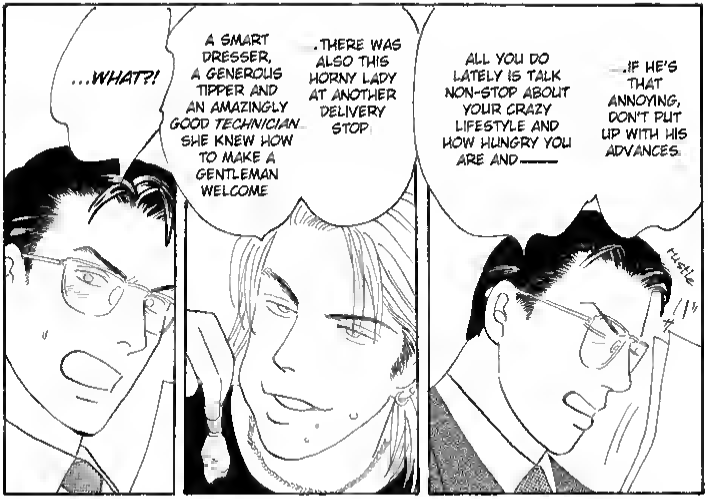
MITSUMETE ITAI

— I'LL BE WATCHING YOU —

見つめていたい

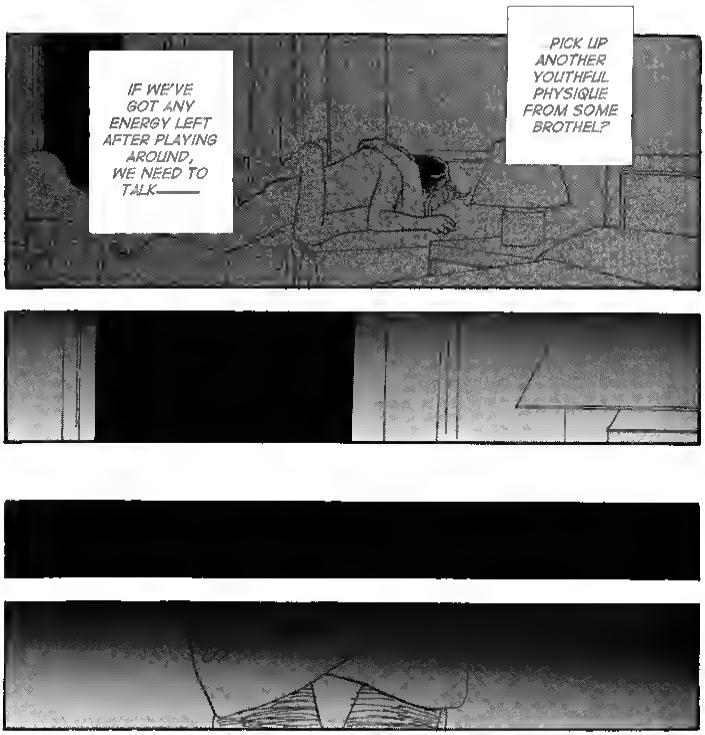
EH?
YOU MADE IT, YAMAGUCHI-SAN!
SORRY, I JUST RECALLED I HAD A PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL LATER
WHY? YOU KNOW THIS OLD MAN?
HE'S A RELATIVE JUST A RELATIVE


WHEN I RING YOU, YOU DON'T EVEN ANSWER.
YOU SHOULD'VE CALLED ME ON MY CELLPHONE TO LET ME KNOW
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU MIGHT BE ON A BUSINESS TRIP OR SOMETHING? I THOUGHT YOU MENTIONED IT WHEN WE MET UP LAST MONTH.
ISN'T TODAY THE SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, ABE-KUN?
YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, CHIEF YAMAGUCHI! YOUNG AND SEXY, I'M TELLING YOU!
BACK AGAIN! SAY, HER JIBE ABOUT YOU BEING AN OLD MAN HAS MADE YOU GRUMPY.
Flick
MY PREVIOUS DELIVERY JOB WAS TOO TOUGH!
AHH! TO EAT A MEAL I GOTTA WORK, WORK! RIGHT NOW I'M A SCOUT FOR A CABARET CLUB.
THE WAY THAT SLEAZY GUY AT ONE OF THE DELIVERY STOPS KEPT COMING ON TO ME WAS SO ANNOYING——
IF YOU'D RATHER SPEND TIME WITH OTHER PEOPLE, DON'T LET ME STOP YOU
GEE, THE PRICE OF MEALS THESE DAYS IS ON THE RISE, HUH?
——WHAT WAS THAT?


...WHAT?!
A SMART DRESSER, A GENEROUS TIPPER AND AN AMAZINGLY GOOD TECHNICIAN. SHE KNEW HOW TO MAKE A GENTLEMAN WELCOME
...THERE WAS ALSO THIS HORNY LADY AT ANOTHER DELIVERY STOP.
ALL YOU DO LATELY IS TALK NON-STOP ABOUT YOUR CRAZY LIFESTYLE AND HOW HUNGRY YOU ARE AND——
...IF HE'S THAT ANNOYING, DON'T PUT UP WITH HIS ADVANCES.
rustle
WAIT UP! IT'S MY FIRST DECENT MEAL IN DAYS!
LEMME CRAM IN A BIT MORE FOOD.
DON'T SAY ANY-MORE. I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
RATTLE
WHAT? YOU WANNA HEAR ABOUT HER RANGE OF TECHNIQUES?

TAKE YOUR TIME EATING
RATTLE
—IT'S YOUR CELL-PHONE
YOU SURE— IT'S NOT YOUR WIFE...?
ANSWER IT.
AREN'T YOU PICKING IT UP...?
THINGS NOT IMPROVING BETWEEN YOU TWO—

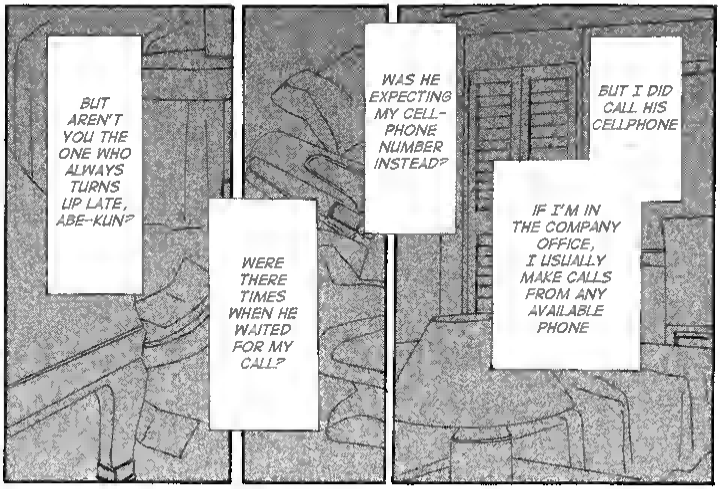
I'M ON TOP OF YOU BLABBING ON AND ON ABOUT YOUR WIFE... IF ONLY YOU TRIED TALKING THE WAY I DO...
ULTIMATELY, I KNOW...
YANK
WE MISSED SEEING THAT STUPID FILM...
...HEY, I'LL SEE IT ON MY OWN SOME OTHER TIME.
...I'M WARNING YOU!
I'LL END UP SPLASHING YOUR FACE!
...DON'T!
THIS GUY FINDS IT ENTERTAINING TO MAKE FUN OF ME
I LET HIM WOLF DOWN MEALS AT MY EXPENSE WHILE HE KEEPS CRACKING JOKES NON-STOP
SOON HE'LL GET BORED AND LEAVE ME
WHEN THAT DAY COMES, WILL I
...FEELS GREAT...
...COMING ALL OVER YOUR FACE, CHIEF...


IF WE'VE GOT ANY ENERGY LEFT AFTER PLAYING AROUND, WE NEED TO TALK——
PICK UP ANOTHER YOUTHFUL PHYSIQUE FROM SOME BROTHEL?

WHAT?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?

TCH! YOU AWAKE?
IS YOUR WALLET FULL OF NOTES? I WAS THINKING ABOUT STEALING YOUR MONEY
ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF FINANCIAL TROUBLE?
IT'S A JOKE! JUST A JOKE!
I WAS WATCHING YOU SLEEP THE CLOSER I LOOKED, THE OLDER YOU GOT
HERE
I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH ASSISTANCE UNTIL YOU FIND A PROPER JOB
WHOA! JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT I SAID, HUH? I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS THE WIFE'S ROLE TO HANDLE STUFF LIKE THE HOUSEHOLD BILLS
DON'T EVER OPEN YOUR MOUTH ABOUT MY FAMILY AGAIN

IF I SHOOK YOU UP BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GET IT, WELL AT LEAST YOU HAD NO PROBLEM ENJOYING YOURSELF.
I WAS MAKING UP A JOKE! A SILLY JOKE!
—HERE! DON'T TURN PALE OVER IT, OLD GEEZER! IT WAS MEANT TO BE A JOKE!
SO DOES THIS MEAN I CAN PUMP YOU FOR MONEY FROM NOW UNTIL WHENEVER?
WELL, WELL— I GUESS IT'S A SENSITIVE TOPIC
バターン
SLAM
YOU NEVER TRIED TO CALL MY CELLPHONE, NOT EVEN ONCE!
MY VISIT?
CALL IT WHAT YOU LIKE! I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT YOUR VISIT TO THE COFFEE SHOP!
YOU COULD SAY IT'S A FREEBIE, ALL PART OF THE SERVICE!
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
—BUT DON'T YOU HAVE DEBTS?
...MY VISIT...?


BUT AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO ALWAYS TURNS UP LATE, ABE-KUN?
WERE THERE TIMES WHEN HE WAITED FOR MY CALL?
WAS HE EXPECTING MY CELL-PHONE NUMBER INSTEAD?
BUT I DID CALL HIS CELLPHONE
IF I'M IN THE COMPANY OFFICE, I USUALLY MAKE CALLS FROM ANY AVAILABLE PHONE

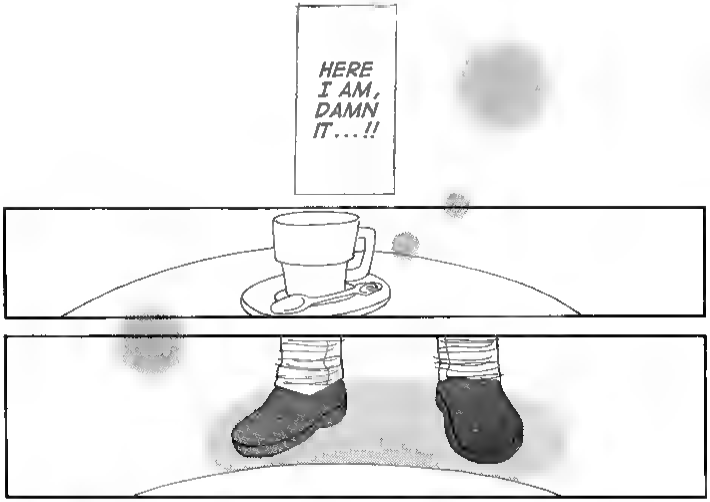
THE WAY YOU WATCH ME WITH THAT GAZE OF YOURS
WELL, I'M WILLING TO DO ANYTHING I CAN FOR YOU
I'M CERTAIN THAT YOU NEVER ONCE CAME TO HARASS ME FOR MONEY BUT

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR WHEN YOU WATCH ME?
WHY DO YOU LIKE DOING IT?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL
THE PROBLEM THAT GUY'S HAVING AT WORK ISN'T ENTIRELY THE FAULT OF THE PEOPLE HE'S WORKING WITH.
CHIEF YAMAGUCHI, DO YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS?
AHH... NO I JUST HAVE TO RETURN TO THE OFFICE SOON
I'VE GOT A GOOD VIEW OF THAT COFFEE SHOP FROM HERE
THE PLACE WE MEET UP ONCE A MONTH

ASK HIM TO MEET ME?
I GUESS HE'S NOT COMING ANYMORE BY NEXT MONTH HE'LL HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME
SHOULD I TRY TO CALL HIM?
BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S BEEN AN HOUR...
SINCE OUR AGREED MEETING TIME
EXPLAIN THE PHONE NUMBER MIX-UP HOW I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPARATING FROM MY WIFE...
...AND OTHER SORDID REVELATIONS ABOUT MY LIFE?
YEAH
THEY'RE OFTEN TASTY. YOU'LL EAT THEM, RIGHT?
THE CHERRIES ARE FALLING NOW
NO WAY! DON'T EAT THAT——

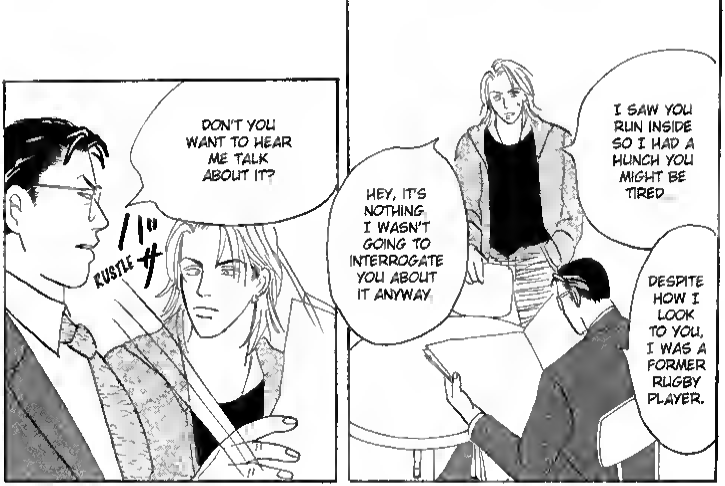
CHIEF...?
SSHH!
SPLOSH
カ!!ハ!!
ANYWAY...
.....
.....
CHIEF, THE CUP...
Too late!
WHOOSH
I'M GOING BACK NOW!
HIS SUPERIORS MUST BE REALLY SCARY.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THE CHIEF SPRINT SO FAST... IS OUR COMPANY THAT STRICT ABOUT WORKING BACK LATE?

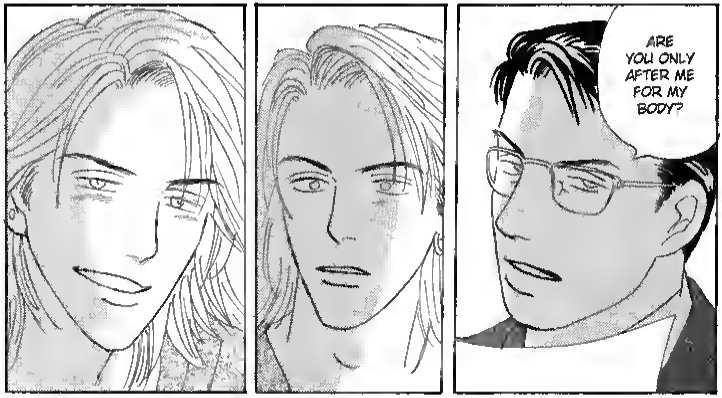
THE SAME WAY HE WATCHED ME THAT NIGHT?
IS HE WAITING FOR ME?
MAYBE HE'S BEEN OVER THERE ALL THIS TIME...
WAS HE WATCHING ME AGAIN?
OR DID HE JUST HAPPEN TO VISIT THE SHOP TODAY TO WASTE TIME?
WELCOME! WHAT WOULD YOU——
YOU NEVER CARED YET YOU STILL CAME BACK
YOU CAN TAKE THIS SEAT.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU SEEM SO MISERABLE, BUT
COFFEE!

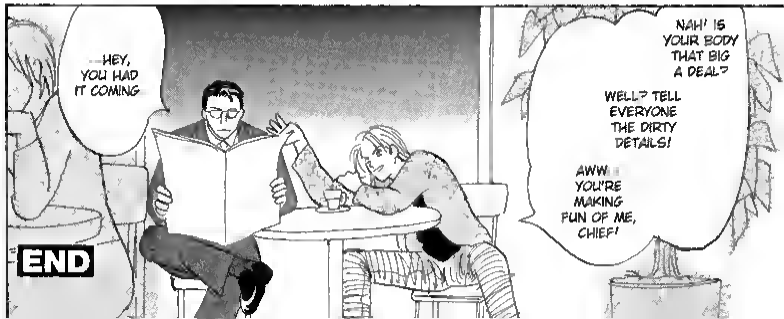

HERE I AM, DAMN IT...!!

huff
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.
huff

...YOU MUST BE REALLY WORN OUT, HUH?


I SAW YOU RUN INSIDE SO I HAD A HUNCH YOU MIGHT BE TIRED
DESPITE HOW I LOOK TO YOU, I WAS A FORMER RUGBY PLAYER.
HEY, IT'S NOTHING I WASN'T GOING TO INTERROGATE YOU ABOUT IT ANYWAY.
DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR ME TALK ABOUT IT?
KUSTLE


ARE YOU ONLY AFTER ME FOR MY BODY?


NAH! IS YOUR BODY THAT BIG A DEAL?
WELL? TELL EVERYONE THE DIRTY DETAILS!
AWW, YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME, CHIEF!
HEY, YOU HAD IT COMING
END

YURUSHITE HOSHIKUNAI

— NO NEED TO FORGIVE YOU —

許して欲しくない

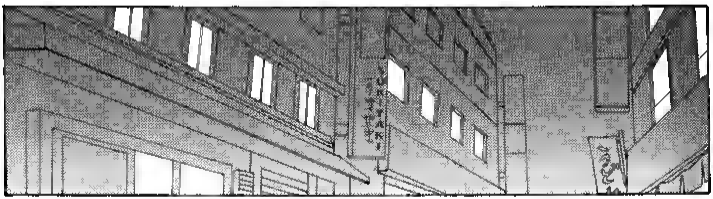
MITSUMETE ITAI 2

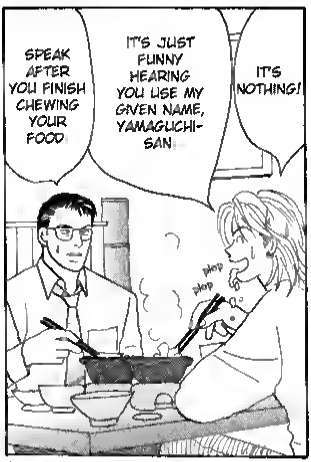
URGH~~
P P P P
...UH?
P P P P
I DRANK TOO MUCH. MY HEAD HURTS...
...MY ASS HURTS TOO.
P P P P
...SHIT! TIME FOR WORK.
gah
DIDN'T YAMAGUCHI-SAN RING TO SAY HE COULDN'T MEET ME BECAUSE HE HAD TO WORK——
HUH? LAST NIGHT.
ZZZ
WHA—

SHUT UP! I DIDN'T KNOW! I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT! GET OUT OF HERE!
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO INVITED ME OVER!
YOU DRAGGED ME HERE AFTER DRINKING YOURSELF STUPID AT THE KARAOKE CLUB!
YOU GOT ME DRUNK AND RAPED ME, YOU PERVERT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? GET UP, YOU MORON!
OWW!
ドカ KICK
ドカ KICK
A-AT LEAST WE WERE USING A CONDOM, RIGHT?
I WONDER IF I'VE GOT KISS MARKS OR ANYTHING...
WHO? YAMAGUCHI-SAN?
SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THIS TO YAMAGUCHI-SAN AND I'LL POUND YOU INTO A BLOODY PULP!
YOU KNOW HIM, YOU BASTARD? HURRY UP AND GET OUT!
.....
STOMP バタン
STOMP ドタドタ
THAT'S IT! I NEED A SHOWER! RUNNING WATER!

IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO SLEEP WITH ANOTHER MAN!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M MARRIED TO YAMAGUCHI-SAN OR ANYTHING!
BUT WHY AM I IN SUCH A PANIC OVER THIS?
I WAS NEVER UNDER AN OBLIGATION TO REMAIN EXCLUSIVE TO HIM ALONE
WE'RE NOT MADLY IN LOVE OR ENGAGED TO EACH OTHER
HE COULD BE HAVING FUN WITH OTHER MALE FRIENDS BESIDES ME
EEK!
SHOCK
PPPP
MAYBE I'LL SEE HIM AGAIN AT THE KARAOKE CLUB...
I WONDER IF I SAVED HIS NUMBER IN MY CELL-PHONE.
KICKING OUT THAT GUY WAS SUCH A WASTE!
HE WAS GOOD-LOOKING TOO, DAMMIT!

HEY, KAZUKI?
YESTERDAY WAS A BAD DAY FOR ME.
HOW ABOUT HAVING DINNER TONIGHT?

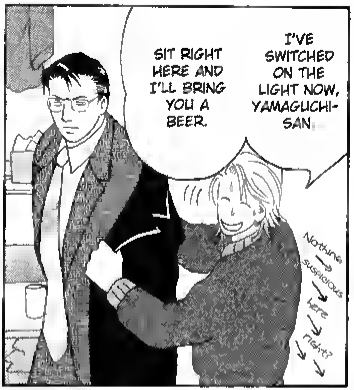



SPEAK AFTER YOU FINISH CHEWING YOUR FOOD.
IT'S JUST FUNNY HEARING YOU USE MY GIVEN NAME, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.
IT'S NOTHING!
Mop
Mop

YOUR VOICE SOUNDED STRANGE OVER THE PHONE, BUT I WASN'T SURE.
SO YOU WEREN'T EXPECTING TO MEET UP WITH ME TONIGHT?

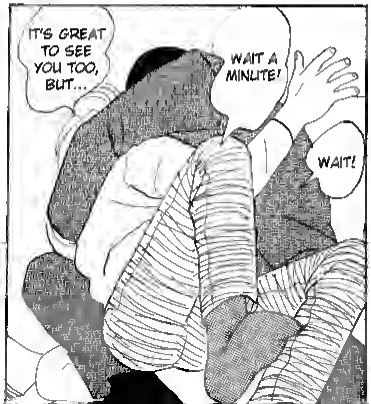
YOU TOLD ME BEFORE THAT YOU WERE AFTER ONE...
TO MAKE UP FOR CANCELING OUR MEETING LAST NIGHT, I BOUGHT YOU THIS POT.
MY... MY PLACE?
SHOULD I GIVE IT TO YOU HERE?
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT. DO YOU DISLIKE IT WHEN I'M TOO FAMILIAR WITH YOU?
TODAY I WAS EVEN HOPING YOU'D INVITE ME OVER TO YOUR PLACE.
THAT MAN LEFT NOTHING BEHIND, RIGHT?
I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO DO A PROPER CHECK THIS MORNING BECAUSE I HAD TO RUSH OFF TO WORK!
... N-NO, OF COURSE NOT! YOU'VE GONE TO SO MUCH TROUBLE TO GET THIS FOR ME
SURE, YOU CAN COME OVER! BUT I'VE LEFT IT IN A BIT OF A MESS ..

CHECK IT OVER, JUST IN CASE!
COULD YOU WAIT OUTSIDE A MOMENT? I JUST NEED TO QUICKLY TIDY UP THE PLACE.
GRAB
EH?
W-WHY THE SUDDEN RUSH?
SHUT
EH?
EH?
SLAM


I'VE SWITCHED ON THE LIGHT NOW, YAMAGUCHI-SAN.
SIT RIGHT HERE AND I'LL BRING YOU A BEER.
Nothing suspicious here, right?

FLASH
Flick Flick Flick
I THOUGHT SOMEONE WAS ALREADY IN HERE.
T-THERE'S NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO BE IN HERE!

HERE YOU GO.
WANT SOMETHING TO EAT?
.....
YOU SIT DOWN AS WELL.


IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU TOO, BUT...
WAIT A MINUTE!
WAIT!

AHH!
HUH? BUT I STILL WANT TO SEE THE POT AND—

I...
YAMAGUCHI-SAN!
I...
S-STOP IT!
HEY CHIEF! YOU'RE BEING TOO ROUGH TONIGHT!
I NEED TO TAKE A SHOWER FIRST—
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
I... LAST NIGHT I ENDED UP DOING IT WITH ANOTHER GUY...
WHACK

.....
RATTLE
STOMP
STOMP
clatter
WHOMP
WHY?
whirl
SHIT!
I LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND

YOU MEAN I'VE BEEN DUMPED ALREADY?
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING ME?
H-HOW... CAN YOU WALK OUT WITHOUT AN EXPLANATION?
YOU GET TO HAVE A WIFE AND EVEN A KID, BUT AS FOR ME...
I WAS WITH SOMEONE ELSE ONLY ONCE... ONLY ONCE!

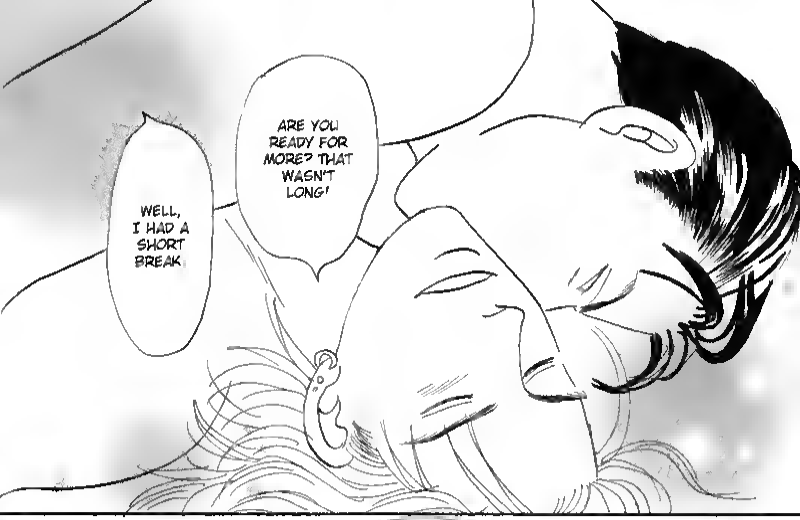
ISN'T THIS YOUR WAY OF TELLING ME THAT I'VE BEEN REPLACED BY SOMEONE ELSE?
BUT YOU...
...YOU JUST BLURTED IT OUT! YOU MADE SURE I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID!
I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER THAT GUY'S FACE!
I WAS DRUNK AND I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!
NOW SUDDENLY YOU'RE SAYING YOU WON'T SEE ME ANYMORE!

YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
...YET YOU'RE STILL GOING TO DUMP ME ANYWAY!
I WAS HONEST WITH YOU BECAUSE I KNEW I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HIDE THE TRUTH...
YOU DIDN'T MEET ME FOR KARAOKE SO...
THAT'S HOW I MET HIM...
I...I UNDERSTAND... DON'T CRY, DON'T CRY! IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO HIT YOU!
SNIFFLE
...AND I WOULDN'T HAVE THE WILLPOWER TO BREAK UP WITH YOU!
YOU COULD SLEEP WITH ANYONE YOU WANTED...
FOR A MOMENT I WAS GOING TO DUMP YOU...
...BUT NOT ANYMORE

DON'T TALK THAT WAY!
YOU SHOULD BE TELLING ME NOT TO SLEEP WITH OTHER MEN.
GO ON, SAY IT I CAN SETTLE DOWN, YOU KNOW
...COMMIT YOURSELF TO BEING MY PARTNER?
ENOUGH. NOW YOU'RE IN DANGER OF OFFERING ME FAR TOO MUCH.
SAY IT!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO DO ANYTHING FOR A DISGRACEFUL OLD MAN LIKE ME.
RAGING JEALOUSY IS MY ONLY EXCUSE FOR HURTING YOU. YOU SURE YOU CAN CARE FOR A MAN WHO'S THIS VIOLENT?
DON'T YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CARE ABOUT

YES.
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH!
WAIT...
WAIT! I SAID STOP!
HEY! L-LET GO NOW...
MM!
OOH...
...AHH.
DID THAT FEEL GOOD?
huff
huff
huff

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE BEST ONE EVER.
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME FOR CHEATING ON YOU?
YOU MADE THE ORGASM GO ON AND ON!
IT LASTED FOR A WHILE, HUH?
huff
UNLIKE YOU, I NEED TIME TO RECOVER AFTER I COME.
huff
wobble
DON'T EVER HIT ME AGAIN, ALL RIGHT?
I'M THE ONE WHO MUST APOLOGIZE TO YOU.
I'LL BE GENTLE WITH YOU.
...VERY GENTLE, HMM?



ZOUSAN A well-known Japanese children's song
Also known as "Little Elephant" or "The Elephant's Song"

I TOLD YOU ALREADY! WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME AGAIN?! YOU'LL BURST OUT LAUGHING WHEN YOU HEAR ME! I REFUSE TO DO IT!!
LOOK, LOOK! "ZOUSAN" WOULD BE A BREEZE FOR YOU TO SING! YOU KNOW THE LYRICS, RIGHT?
COME ON! WE'LL SING IT TOGETHER!
END

MOU KURUSHIMETA KUNAI

— DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU ANYMORE —

もう苦しめたくない

MITSUMETE ITAI 3

AREA TWO DELIVERIES ARE ALL DONE, YAMASHITA-SAN!
OH, THAT'S IT FOR TODAY! I'M ABOUT TO FINISH HERE AS WELL.
YOU GOING HOME TO EAT?
BRRRm
NOO~~
DIDN'T YOU GET THAT CALL YOU WERE WAITING FOR?
I SAW YOU CHECKING YOUR PHONE MANY TIMES TODAY, BUT...
AHH...
IT'S NOTHING. I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT REPLACING MY OLD PHONE WITH A NEW ONE.
HEY, IT'S RINGING!
PPP
HMM? OH YEAH, I WONDER WHO IT IS. WHAT A HASSLE!
YEAH, MUST BE YAMAGUCHI-SAN.
PPP

ARRGH!
KAZUKI?
WHOA, SCARY!!
BEEP
HELLO YOUNG LADY!
scratch scratch
LATELY HE'S MADE A STRING OF LAST-MINUTE CANCELLATIONS I BET THAT'S WHY HE'S CALLING NOW
I'LL DELAY ANSWERING IT TO ANNOY HIM
THAT'S NO GOOD SO THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET TOGETHER
COULD YOU DO SOMETHING FOR ME NOW?
HEY! YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO INTRODUCE ME——
IT'S NOT A GIRLFRIEND!
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS!
YEAH, I'M WORKING BACK LATE! HE'S A FRIEND, A FRIEND, JUST A FRIEND!
YEAH, I WANT TO ORDER A 12-INCH MIXED PIZZA TO BE DELIVERED TO OUR DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
TELL THEM YOU'LL RETURN BACK TO WORK AFTER YOU BRING IT OVER
ERR, WELL...
I'M STILL IN THE MIDDLE OF WORK, YOU SEE, SO——

LONG TIME NO SEE! REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME WE MET IN THE COMPANY OFFICE?
YOU WERE DELIVERING CANS OF COFFEE THAT DAY. YOU QUIT THAT JOB AFTER A MONTH.
HOW CAN YOU KEEP DOING THE SAME KIND OF JOB NOW?
WE CAN'T ALL BE AS PRODUCTIVE AS YOU. .
...WORKING HARD NON-STOP IT'S FINE IF YOU CAN'T MAKE ANY TIME FOR ME.

TO WHERE? AMERICA?
THEN SURELY YOU'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW ME ON MY UPCOMING TRIP...
I'VE HALF-FORGOTTEN YOUR FACE ALREADY.
BUT IF I DON'T MAKE THE EFFORT TO SEE YOU, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL FORGET ABOUT ME.
I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO OUR SEATTLE RESEARCH INSTITUTE...
shhk
I LEAVE NEXT MONTH
YEAH, MY TRANSFER'S BEEN CONFIRMED
FOR THREE YEARS
MAYBE AS LONG AS FIVE YEARS.

ARE YOU LEAVING YOUR FAMILY BEHIND?
.....
THAT WAS THE PLAN
I'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM MY WIFE FOR A WHILE...
...AND WE AGREED TO DIVORCE EACH OTHER ONCE OUR DAUGHTER WAS OLD ENOUGH
BUT...
MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL. SHE'S BECOMING TOO DIFFICULT FOR MY WIFE TO HANDLE ON HER OWN.
SO FOR THE SAKE OF MY DAUGHTER'S WELFARE...
...FOR THE TIME BEING, WE CAN'T SPLIT UP AS A FAMILY.
WELL...
IT WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE TO TAKE SOMEONE LIKE ME ALONG.
I WAS TRYING TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS...
RATTLE
...TO PERSUADE YOU TO FOLLOW ME. WOULD YOU DO ME THE FAVOR OF COMING ALONG?

I... ERR.....
THEN WE WON'T BE SEEING MUCH OF EACH OTHER, MUCH LIKE OUR SITUATION NOW BUT I'LL MAKE SURE TO RETURN AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE
WE CAN KEEP IN TOUCH VIA PHONE AND EMAIL...
RIGHT, I'LL HAVE TO GET YOU YOUR OWN COMPUTER
——IN THAT CASE
WILL YOU WAIT FOR ME...
KAZUKI?
YEAH.
I'LL WAIT

I'VE GOT A FEELING YOU'RE JUST TELLING ME WHAT I WANT TO HEAR.
...I SEE.

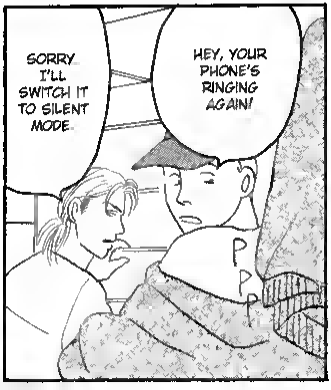
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT NEWS.
WHEN I RETURN TO JAPAN... WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER FOR GOOD

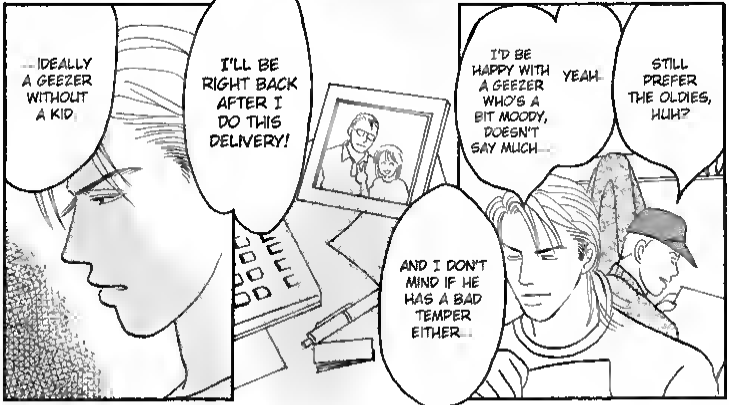
NOT BEING ABLE TO MEET UP WITH YOU... HAS BEEN TOUGH
FOR ME, TOO.
DON'T WORRY
AREN'T YOU IMPROVING ALREADY?
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS EVERY DAY AS OFTEN AS WE LIKE?
IF I'VE GOT THE STAMINA FOR IT...

CREAK
キィ
CREAK
キィ
YOU'RE FREE TO LET ANYONE TOUCH YOU, KAZUKI...
EVEN I MAKE USE OF YOU UNTIL YOU'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT TO GIVE.
GOING OVERSEAS WILL PROBABLY HURT YOU... EVEN MORE...
EVEN MORE... AHH!
CREAK
ガタ
RATTLE
SHOVE
ドン
YA...
YAMA...

...OHH!
UGH!
KAZU... KI!
CLATTER
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
scrunch
YOU ARE...
MINE!
AH!
AAH!
...I'M YOURS.
DUFF DUFF

YEAH...
HAVING A SLEAZY OLD MAN FOR A STALKER IS NO JOKE!
IS IT THAT GEEZER AGAIN? ARE YOU THROUGH WITH HIM OR SOMETHING?
LATELY I'VE BEEN WONDERING IF I SHOULD LOOK AROUND FOR A BETTER ONE
PPP

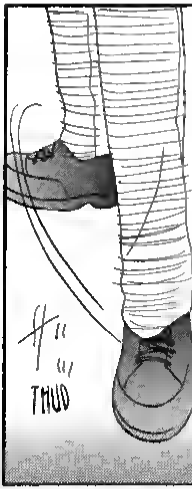

SORRY. I'LL SWITCH IT TO SILENT MODE.
HEY, YOUR PHONE'S RINGING AGAIN!
PPP


...IDEALLY A GEEZER WITHOUT A KID.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK AFTER I DO THIS DELIVERY!
I'D BE HAPPY WITH A GEEZER WHO'S A BIT MOODY, DOESN'T SAY MUCH...
YEAH.
STILL PREFER THE OLDIES, HUH?
AND I DON'T MIND IF HE HAS A BAD TEMPER EITHER...

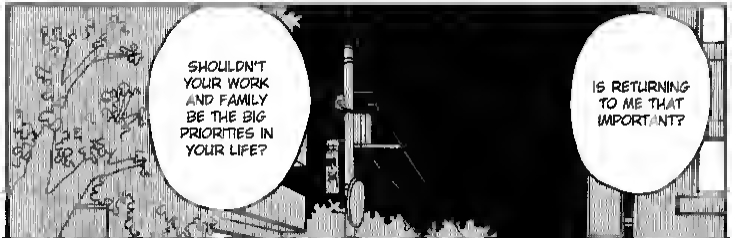
PPP
PPP
PPP
PP
PP

I JUST REMEMBERED I HAVE TO GO SHOPPING.
I ONLY CAME TO RETURN YOUR KEY.
clink
SO IN SHORT, DOES THIS MEAN—

I MANAGED TO TRACK YOU DOWN AT LAST, DIDN'T I?
DON'T IT'S EASIER IF YOU DON'T RUN


THUD

...IF YOU DO COME BACK.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT
WHEN YOU RETURN, I'LL WELCOME YOU BACK.
—THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR ME?


SHOULDN'T YOUR WORK AND FAMILY BE THE BIG PRIORITIES IN YOUR LIFE?
IS RETURNING TO ME THAT IMPORTANT?

IF I SUDDENLY RETURN TO JAPAN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY AROUND BEHIND MY BACK, WILL YOU?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF? MAKING UP YOUR MIND TO MOVE ABROAD WITH A DULL CORPORATE SERVANT?
IT'S PART OF YOUR JOB. I REALIZE YOU COULD BE SENT AWAY AT ANY TIME
THEN HOW ABOUT I TELL THEM THAT I WON'T ACCEPT THE TRANSFER?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE RIDICULOUS, GO AND RETIRE FROM THE COMPANY!
NOW YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE! DOING THAT WOULD BE A DRASTIC SETBACK TO THE FIRM!
WHAT IF I TOLD YOU ALL THIS ISN'T EASY FOR ME EITHER?
...SORRY THESE DAYS THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN PROVOKE ME INTO A SHOUTING MATCH LIKE THIS IS MY DAUGHTER..
THEN WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU, ME OR YOUR DAUGHTER?!

THAT'S A RELIEF!
AT LAST, I'M NOT DISAPPOINTED IN YOU. I'M FINISHED HERE.
MY DAUGHTER.
.....
DON'T TELL ME ANY MORE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY PROBLEMS!!
YOU ONCE ACCUSED ME OF SHOVING MY NOSE IN YOUR HOME LIFE!
WHEN MY DAUGHTER GROWS UP——
HARUNA IS...
IT'S JUST THAT RIGHT NOW...

I..
THAT WAS BEFORE, BUT NOW ..
...MY MISTAKE I WON'T BRING UP MY FAMILY AGAIN!
BUT...
...TONIGHT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE A RATIONAL DISCUSSION.
SO THAT'S WHY..

I'M NOT THE KIND OF BOYFRIEND WHO CAN SATISFY A WORN-OUT MAN SORRY ABOUT THAT
YOUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO LEAVE ME BEHIND, CHIEF YAMAGUCHI
NOW THAT I'M FREE, I'M GOING TO SNUGGLE UP TO MY OWN IMAGINARY FAMILY!
WAIT, KAZUKI! LET'S TALK TOMORROW!
THAT'S WHY IT'S BEST FOR US TO GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS ON THIS LOVELY EVENING!

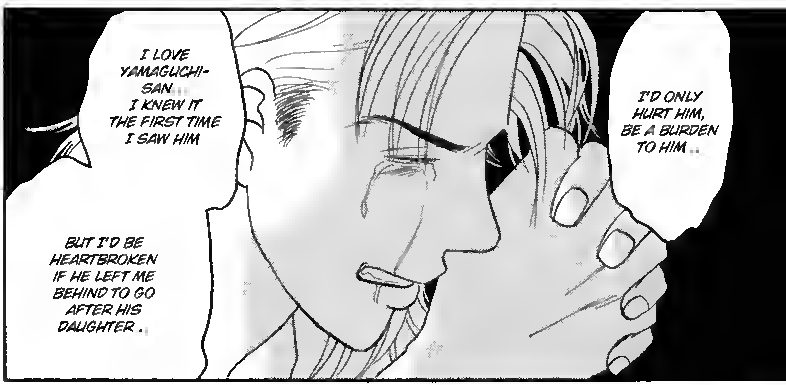
SO YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH ME? DON'T YOU WANT ME TO TAKE YOU ALONG?
I KNOW YOU DO! COME ALONG WITH ME!
I WANTED TO SATISFY YOU FROM THE BEGINNING, CHIEF. BUT I REFUSE TO CARE ABOUT YOU ANYMORE!
KAZUKI!!

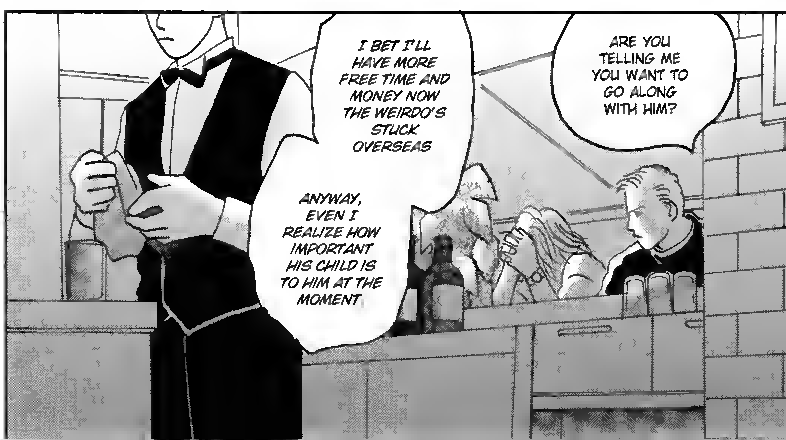
'SO YOU'RE NOT COMING WITH ME?'
...THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
HE WAS YELLING THINGS LIKE, COME ALONG WITH ME!
MOVE TO AMERICA...

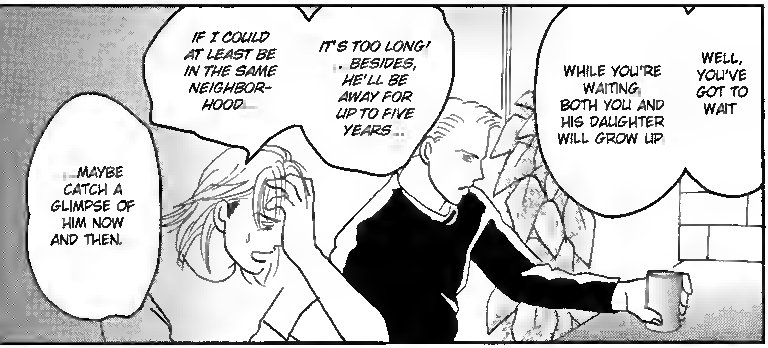
THE OLD GUY'S VOICE WAS ECHOING ALL AROUND ME
HUH? SO HE'S JUST OFFERED TO TAKE YOU ALONG, BUT——
HEY, ISN'T THAT HIM ON THE PHONE AGAIN?
P P P
...NO.
NOT HIM.
JUST SOME ADS.
...I GUESS HE'S ON THE PLANE BY NOW.
——ANYWAY, HE SAID HE'D COME BACK TO SEE ME!
SO YOU'RE GOING TO BE SEEING MORE OF HIM?
AHH, MY APOLOGIES! LIKE YOU SAID EARLIER, I'VE GOT MY OWN LIFE TO LEAD.
I BET THERE'S NO WAY MY LIFE CAN BE ANY MORE MESSED UP THAN THIS!
ANOTHER GLASS, BARTENDER!
STILL, TO BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN AMERICA WITH THAT WEIRDO MIGHT'VE BEEN FUN, HUH?
WAS HE REALLY THE WEIRDO STALKER TYPE?
——ANYWAY, HE'LL SOON PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER ONCE HE'S DOING HIS RESEARCH OR WHATEVER IN SEATTLE.

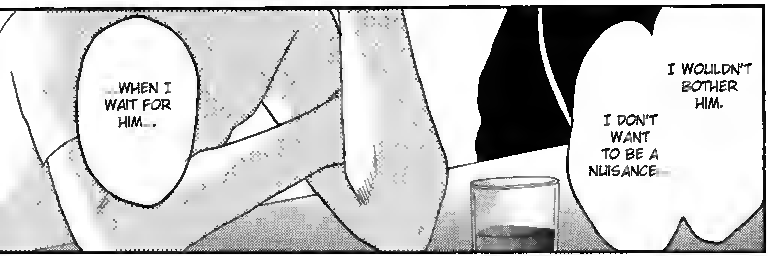
WHEN I LOOKED BACK AT HOW I LIVED MY LIFE...
...TAKING IT EASY AND HAVING LOTS OF FUN, AND HOW MESSED UP IT IS NOW...
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW
...I KNEW I COULDN'T ACCEPT HIS OFFER TO TAKE ME ALONG...
BECAUSE YOU...
...DIDN'T WANT TO MESS UP THE OLD MAN'S LIFE AS WELL?

RIGHT NOW, I...
I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM, THAT'S ALL.


I LOVE YAMAGUCHI-SAN... I KNEW IT THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM
BUT I'D BE HEARTBROKEN IF HE LEFT ME BEHIND TO GO AFTER HIS DAUGHTER.
I'D ONLY HURT HIM, BE A BURDEN TO HIM...


I BET I'LL HAVE MORE FREE TIME AND MONEY NOW THE WEIRDO'S STUCK OVERSEAS
ANYWAY, EVEN I REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT HIS CHILD IS TO HIM AT THE MOMENT.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU WANT TO GO ALONG WITH HIM?


WELL, YOU'VE GOT TO WAIT
WHILE YOU'RE WAITING, BOTH YOU AND HIS DAUGHTER WILL GROW UP.
IT'S TOO LONG! ...BESIDES, HE'LL BE AWAY FOR UP TO FIVE YEARS...
IF I COULD AT LEAST BE IN THE SAME NEIGHBOR-HOOD...
...MAYBE CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM NOW AND THEN.


I WOULDN'T BOTHER HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A NUISANCE...
...WHEN I WAIT FOR HIM...

PROVIDING I WAIT FOR HIM ON MY OWN TERMS...

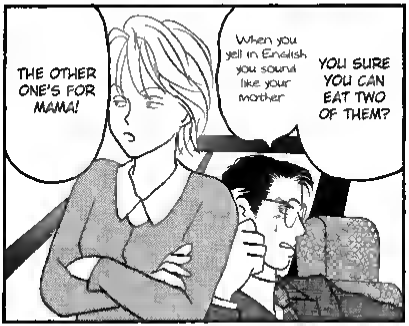
HARUNA!!
HARUNA?

KEEP IT DOWN! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SLIP AWAY FROM WORK ESPECIALLY TO PICK ME UP!
THIS IS HOW WE'RE DOING IT FROM NOW ON BECAUSE YOU DON'T COME HOME ON TIME.
DON'T WANDER OFF! I TOLD YOU TO WAIT IN FRONT OF THE GATE!
YAY, WE'RE APPROACHING 'BATES'!
.....
WHAT?
I'M GETTING TAKE-OUT SANDWICHES!
HEY, BE QUIET ALREADY!!
WHEN I THINK YOU'VE FINALLY SETTLED INTO YOUR NEW SCHOOL, I'LL RELAX THE RULES.
YOU NEVER TOOK ANY NOTICE OF ME BEFORE, YET NOW YOU THINK YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT TO ACT LIKE A REAL FATHER!

OKAY!
TWO, PLEASE! CAR! CAR!
'L' SET TWO!

DON'T YOU KNOW? IT'S REALLY CLOSE TO YOUR OFFICE.
unlock
IS THIS THE SHOP?

WOW! YOU SPEAK JAPANESE!
HERE YOU GO! THANKS FOR WAITING!


THE OTHER ONE'S FOR MAMA!
When you yell in English you sound like your mother
YOU SURE YOU CAN EAT TWO OF THEM?

THAT'S BECAUSE MANY JAPANESE LIVE IN THIS NEIGHBOR-HOOD...

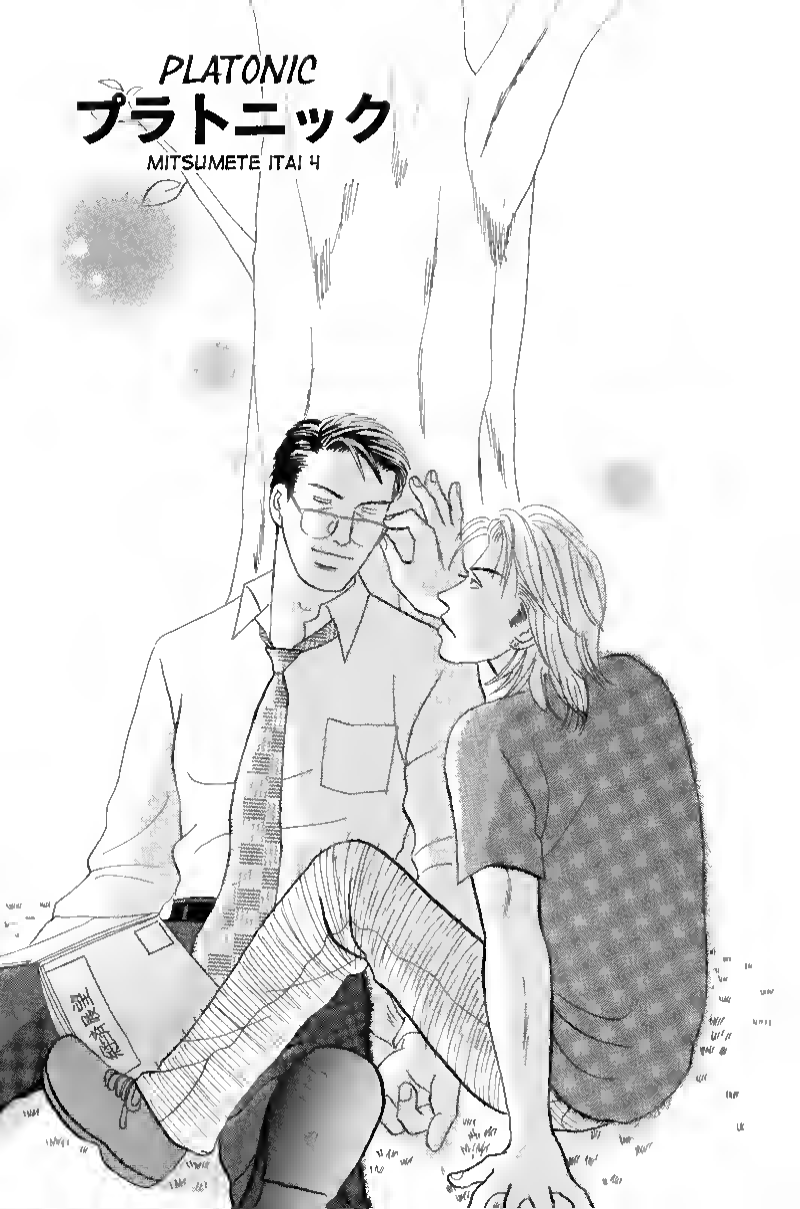
SANKYUU VERY MUCH...
PRETTY GIRL!
AND GENTLE-MAN!

AH...
WHAT'S WRONG NOW?
HEY, WE HAVE TO GET GOING!
AHH... AH
PLEASE GO, GO
YOU'RE IN THE WAY OF THE CARS BEHIND, SO...
...PAPA!
HUH?
.....
ANSWER ME, PAPA!!
PAPA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

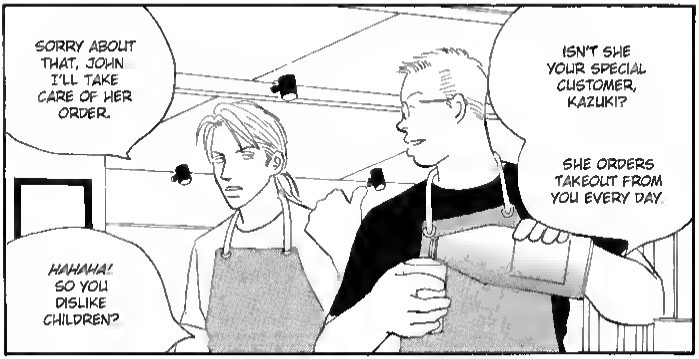
I'M ALL RIGHT
DON'T WORRY
NO
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
THE CAR'S NOT MOVING! DID PAPA WANT ONE AS WELL? I'LL GO AND BUY ONE FOR YOU.
NOW... I'M ALL RIGHT...
FOR THE TIME BEING
ANY CLOSER... IF HE WAS ANY CLOSER...
IF I FEEL LIKE HAVING ONE, I'LL GO BUY IT MYSELF.
WH..T IS IT? YOU'RE...

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
..... YOU AS WELL...
HOW COME YOU'RE STARTING TO LAUGH AS WELL?!
BECAUSE IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN PAPA LAUGHING!
PAPA, NO MORE! YOU LOOK STRANGE! YOU'VE EVEN GOT TEARS RUNNING DOWN YOUR FACE!
END

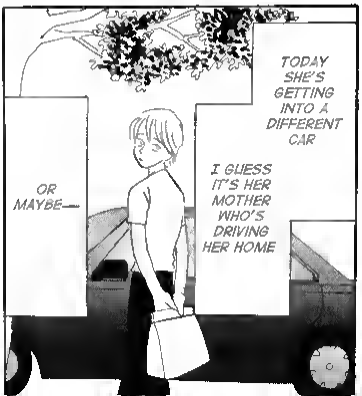
PLATONIC
プラトニック
MITSUMETE ITAI 4

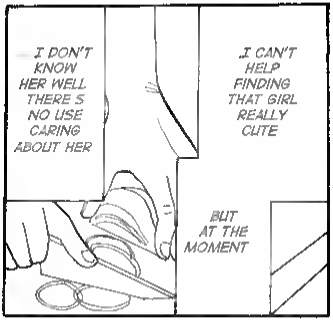


Bastet
KAZUKI!
COULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THE MAIN FLOOR FOR ME?
IT'S CROWDED WITH CUSTOMERS OUT THERE!
HUH?
HELLO! TAKEOUT PLEASE!
ting ting
USE YOUR FINGER TO POINT OUT YOUR ORDER, ALL RIGHT?
OKAY, OKAY.
WELCOME!


SORRY ABOUT THAT, JOHN I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER ORDER.
ISN'T SHE YOUR SPECIAL CUSTOMER, KAZUKI?
SHE ORDERS TAKEOUT FROM YOU EVERY DAY.
HAHAHA! SO YOU DISLIKE CHILDREN?

YET DESPITE MY DISLIKE OF KIDS
YEAH, IT'S TRUE


TODAY SHE'S GETTING INTO A DIFFERENT CAR
I GUESS IT'S HER MOTHER WHO'S DRIVING HER HOME
OR MAYBE—


I DON'T KNOW HER WELL THERE'S NO USE CARING ABOUT HER
I CAN'T HELP FINDING THAT GIRL REALLY CUTE
BUT AT THE MOMENT

HE JUST THREW IT ON THE FLOOR WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD——
HMM?
toss
GREAT MEAL!
RIGHT! SANKYUU!
HEY, YOU!

YOU THERE!
YOU JUST THREW THAT PAPER ON THE FLOOR PICK IT UP
COFFE
COFFE
Cafe C

chew chew
THE GARBAGE BIN IS OVER THERE

IT'S ALL RIGHT JUST DO THE RIGHT THING AND TOSS IT IN THE BIN FOR ME
I DID THROW IT THERE, HUH? I MUST'VE BEEN IN A DAZE
scratch scratch
COFFEE
SOFT DRINKS

SWOOSH
RIGHT, RIGHT MY APOLOGIES FOR MAKING A MESS
COFFEE
thunk
STRIKE!

KAZUKI?
IF YOU'RE DATING MY DAUGHTER, I SWEAR I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET!
HAHAHA! SANKYUU, SANKYUU!
But I've got no idea what you mean!
HOW ABOUT HAVING DINNER AT MY PLACE AGAIN?
MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER WOULD ENJOY YOUR COMPANY...
AHH... YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME TONIGHT I'M...
EATING THEIR HUGE MEALS WILL MAKE MY STOMACH EXPLODE!
SO YOU'VE GOT A DATE?
A DATE?
THERE'S NO WAY I'M PICKING UP ANYONE WITH MY ENGLISH. EVEN A FLIRT LIKE ME HAS TO SETTLE DOWN SOONER OR LATER!
BUT I DO ENJOY CHATTING UP GIRLS...

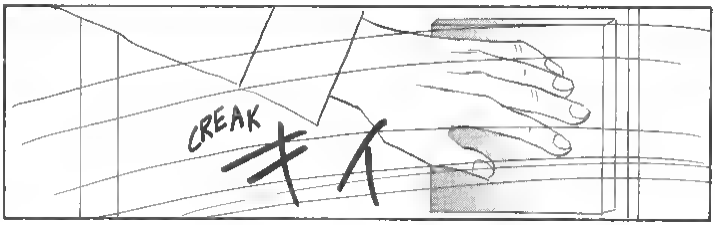
IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND, THE OTHER WAY AROUND! FLIRTING IS MY REAL JOB!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! DO YOU FLIRT WHEN YOU'RE AT WORK?
NAKAYAMA-SAN!
YEAH, WELL I ENJOY IT BECAUSE THERE'S A LOT OF CUTE WORKERS HERE!
SO IT'S UP TO YOU TO TAKE CARE OF ALL THE VENDING MACHINES HERE IN THIS COMPANY? THAT'S TERRIBLE!
REALLY?
THAT OLD GEEZER! I HEAR HE'S A REAL GROUCH, HUH?
THIS ISN'T GOOD I WONDER IF I MADE SOME MISTAKES
HE MADE ME PICK UP SOME LITTER OFF THE FLOOR
YOU KNOW HIM?
HERE ARE THE REVISIONS FOR THAT DRAFT PROPOSAL.
Y-YES, CHIEF YAMAGUCHI!
ビシッ THUD

RIGHT! SORRY, I'M GOING BACK TO WORK NOW
NAKAYAMA-SAN! THOSE ERRORS NEED TO BE FIXED AT ONCE
THUD
I FEEL A BIT UNEASY AROUND HIM, BUT I DON'T HATE HIM!
DON'T YOU HATE HIM?
AHAHAHA! THAT SOUNDS LIKE CHIEF YAMAGUCHI, ALL RIGHT!
PLEASE DO
I'LL DO THOSE REVISIONS RIGHT AWAY!

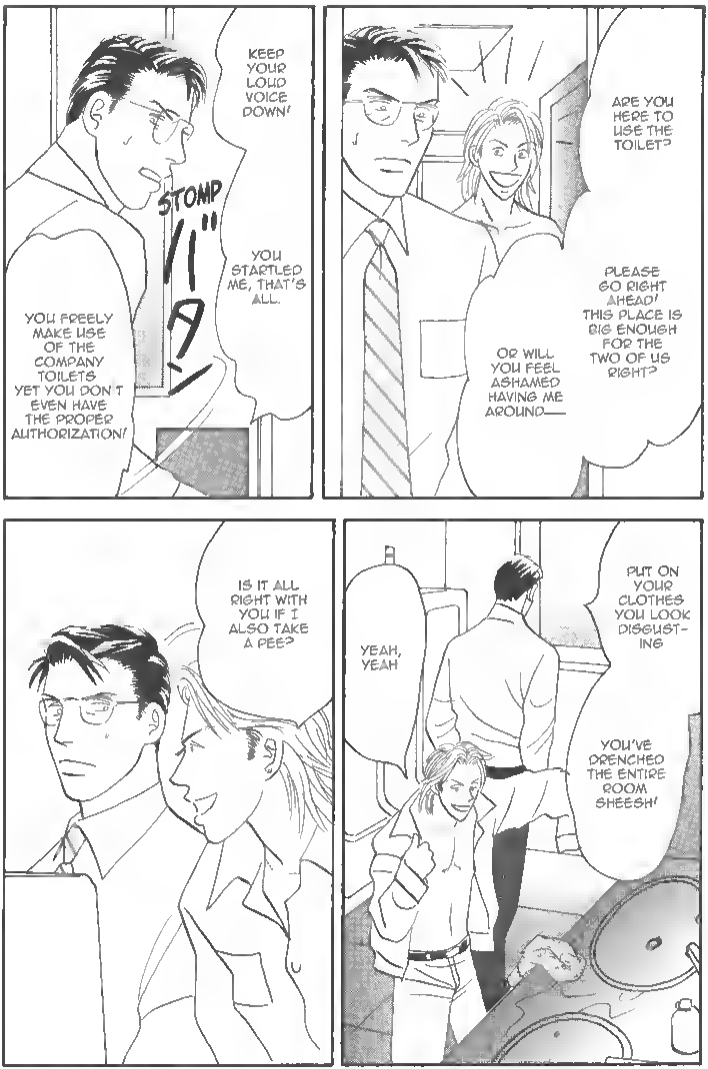
SO SHOULDN'T YOU BE TAKING YOUR BREAK OUTSIDE THIS BUILDING?
HUH? CAN'T I SIT HERE FOR A SHORT WHILE?
YOU'RE TAKING LONGER THAN A "SHORT WHILE."
YOUR JOB IS TO DELIVER COFFEE CANS
YOU'RE NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF OUR COMPANY
BE MY GUEST
I CAN LODGE A COMPLAINT, YOU KNOW
SO WHAT? YOU'RE NOT MY BOSS, ARE YOU?
I DON'T RECALL BEING TOLD HOW TO WEAR MY UNIFORM
WHAT'S MORE, YOUR SHABBY ATTIRE IS INAPPROPRIATE WITHIN THIS BUILDING
COFFEE

WHAT A COOL JACKET!
BUT IT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE.
WOW!
NO, NO! SANKYUU!
YOU WANT THAT?

I DON'T MIND GAY MEN APROACHING ME SINCE I'M GAY AS WELL, BUT I WONDER IF I LOOK THAT OBVIOUS TO EVERYONE
ARE THE STREETS IN THIS AREA USUALLY LIKE THIS?
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD TO BE PICKED UP AND YAMAGUCHI-SAN'S GOT AN UNCANNY ABILITY TO CATCH ME OUT WHEN I CHEAT
HOW COME I DIDN'T SENSE SOMETHING WHEN I FIRST MET YAMAGUCHI-SAN?
I LACK THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE OTHER GAYS ON SIGHT I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR
I LIKED CUTE GIRLS AS WELL AS COOL GUYS... DIDN'T I?
BACK THEN I WAS PLAYING AROUND WITH BOTH MEN AND WOMEN
BUT WHEN IT CAME TO THAT GEEZER—


CREAK
キィ

AAH
I M JUST BORROWING THE MEN S ROOM TO COOL OFF
AH EXCUSE ME I SWEAR I M SO HOT RIGHT NOW
WHAT FOR?
I LL LEAVE YOU TO IT


KEEP YOUR LOUD VOICE DOWN!
STOMP
YOU STARTLED ME, THAT'S ALL.
YOU FREELY MAKE USE OF THE COMPANY TOILETS YET YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE PROPER AUTHORIZATION!
ARE YOU HERE TO USE THE TOILET?
PLEASE GO RIGHT AHEAD! THIS PLACE IS BIG ENOUGH FOR THE TWO OF US RIGHT?
OR WILL YOU FEEL ASHAMED HAVING ME AROUND—
IS IT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU IF I ALSO TAKE A PEE?
YEAH, YEAH
PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES YOU LOOK DISGUST-ING
YOU'VE DRENCHED THE ENTIRE ROOM SHEESH!

LALA LALA ♪
HMM?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIEF-SAN?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO UNZIP YOUR FLY?
THAT'S NOT MUCH, IS IT? AREN'T YOU PEEING ANY MORE?
ONLY A HOMO WOULD BOTHER GOING TO THE TOILET FOR THAT PIDDLE, CHIEF-SAN
カ11
blush
COFFEE
グイ YANK
HUH?!

BANG!
ターン!
WHA—
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?!
COFFEE
PULL
ズル
YOU IDIOT!
WHAT THE—
YOU'VE GOT A REAL CUTE ASS, HUH?

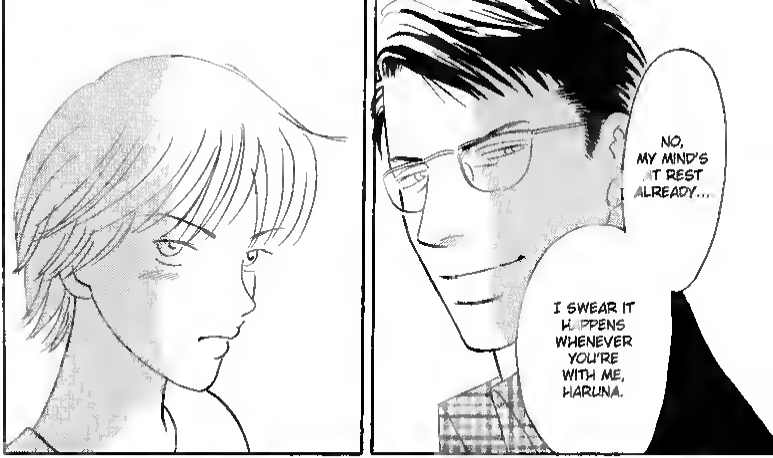
STOP IT, YOU PERVERT!
I'LL YELL OUT FOR HELP!
AHA! YOU'RE NOT SO TOUGH AFTER ALL! GO AHEAD AND SHOUT AS LOUD AS YOU WANT
THERE'S ONLY OUR ARCHIVES SECTION ON THIS FLOOR, SO THERE'S NO ONE AROUND TO HEAR YOU
NO!
KNACK

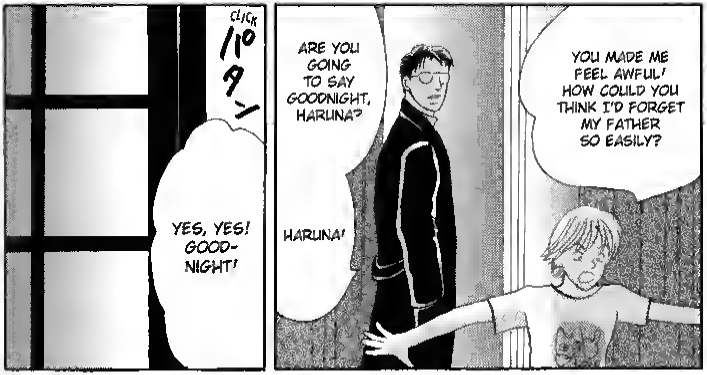
creak
CLICK
THAT'S FOR MAKING FUN OF ME, YOU PUNK!
HAHA...
I WAS SO SCARED AT THE TIME...
...BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING NUTS AND DOING CRAZY STUFF!
AFTER THAT EXPERIENCE, THERE WAS NO WAY I'D EVER CHEAT ON YOU ON PURPOSE!

YAMAGUCHI-SAN
I WONDER WHAT YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW...
PAPA?

ARE YOU HOMESICK? I GUESS YOU WANT TO RETURN TO JAPAN
I SHOULD BE THE ONE SAYING THAT TO YOU. HURRY UP AND GO TO BED.
I'LL GO WITH YOU, ALL RIGHT?
PAPA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHY AREN'T YOU ASLEEP?
'CAUSE I'VE GOT MORE FRIENDS BACK THERE THAN HERE IN AMERICA
—I SUPPOSE I'LL NEED TO GO BACK TO JAPAN SOONER OR LATER.
THEN I'LL LIVE OVER THERE WITH YOU INSTEAD, ALL RIGHT?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I WENT BACK WITH YOU?
HUH?!
IF I ALSO RETURNED TO JAPAN—
.....

I CARE ABOUT YOU VERY MUCH.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
PAPA, WAS I THE REASON YOU WERE FORCED TO LIVE WITH MAMA AGAIN?
WOULD PAPA AND MAMA SPLIT UP FOR GOOD?
YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE IN THE END! BUT YOU'RE STILL PART OF THE FAMILY! SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU. WOULDN'T IT BE TERRIBLE IF YOU HAD NO ONE WITH YOU?
BUT WILL PAPA BE LEFT ALL ALONE BY HIMSELF WITH NOTHING TO DO?
IF YOU GET DIVORCED, THEN I'LL END UP WITH MAMA, AND MAMA'S GOT LOTS OF FRIENDS AND EVEN A BOYFRIEND WHO DOESN'T SEEM THAT BAD.
AND I CARE ABOUT YOU, TOO!
NO! STOP IT! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT! IT'S TOO AWFUL!
KNOWING THAT WOULD SET MY MIND AT REST.
WHEN I'M WASHED UP AND ALL ALONE, WOULD YOU TAKE THE TIME TO LOOK AFTER ME?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL BE HAPPY


NO, MY MIND'S AT REST ALREADY...
I SWEAR IT HAPPENS WHENEVER YOU'RE WITH ME, HARUNA.


CLICK
YES, YES! GOOD-NIGHT!
ARE YOU GOING TO SAY GOODNIGHT, HARUNA?
HARUNA!
YOU MADE ME FEEL AWFUL! HOW COULD YOU THINK I'D FORGET MY FATHER SO EASILY?

EVEN IF SHE THINKS I'M TOO STRICT
AND COMES TO RESENT ME BECAUSE OF IT——
I WON'T ABANDON HER

I WON'T LET HER DOWN I'M NOT ABANDONING HER AGAIN
HEY, CHIEF!
MUNCH
MUNCH
SHARE
NOM
KENTO
500 YEN
YEAH MAYBE THIS TIME HE'S USING IT TO HOLD HIS OWN PARTY
LOOK AT THAT FOOD STALL. MUST'VE BEEN EASY TO SET UP!
THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH
HERE
GROCERIES

I'LL LEAVE THIS HERE FOR YOU
. . . . .
bite
ぱく
I WAS GUILTY OF OVERREACTING BACK THERE
IT WAS WRONG OF ME

— IF THAT RUN WAS ALL I HAD FOR DINNER, I'D BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING BETTER! I'M HELPING YOU EAT, DAMMIT!
カツ
CLICK CLACK
カツ
CLICK CLACK
カツ
I DESERVE A FIVE HUNDRED YEN BENTO FOR ENDURING THAT SHAMEFUL ORDEAL
ぶつぶつ
mutter mutter

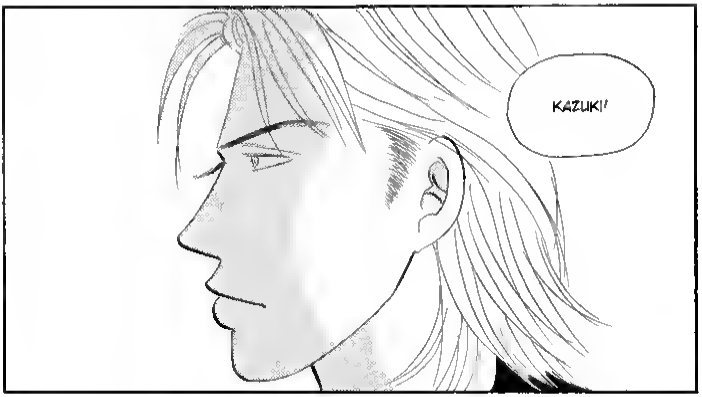
YOU'RE HOLDING DOWN A FEW JOBS AREN'T YOU?
SO WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN EATING REGULAR MEALS?
YEAH ANOTHER SERVING OF RICE!
gobble gobble gobble
gobble gobble gobble
SORRY
WELL, IT'S KINDA STRANGE BUT I SWEAR MY MONEY KEEPS VANISHING!
BURP
IT'S A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO ME!
Y-YOU! MUST YOU BLURT OUT THE FIRST THING THAT ENTERS YOUR HEAD?
WHAT? YOU'RE PAYING FOR IT WITH A DIAMOND CREDIT CARD?!
THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND YEN!

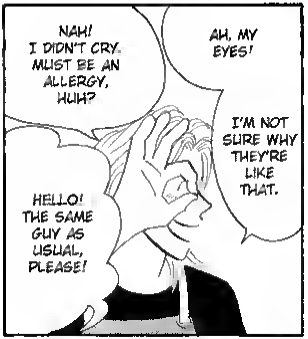
ERR..
I COULD PAY BACK TWO THOUSAND YEN, YOU KNOW!
THE COST OF THAT SECOND SERVING
IT'S ALL RIGHT
IF I SKIP LUNCH FOR THE REST OF THIS MONTH, I SHOULD GET BY
THIS MEAL HASN'T LEFT YOU BANKRUPT, HAS IT?
heh heh
NEXT TIME? AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT ACCEPTING A TREAT FROM AN OLD GEEZER WHO'S A HOMO?
YOU KNOW I DON'T EXPECT A GEEZER LIKE YOU TO BE SUCH A GREAT GUY WHEN I TAKE YOU OUT FEEL FREE TO EAT AS MUCH YOU LIKE
NEXT TIME I'LL TAKE YOU TO A PLACE THAT'S WAY CHEAPER THEIR FOOD IS MUCH MORE DELICIOUS, TOO!

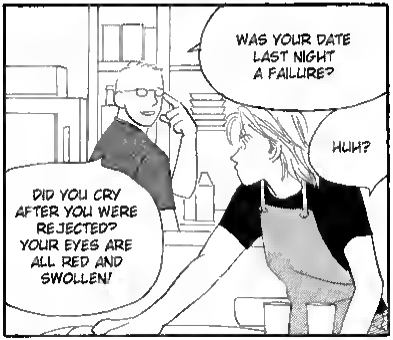
HEY, I M SURE A GEEZER LIKE YOU'S GOT NOTHING AGAINST YOUNGER MEN
YOU WOULD'VE BEEN A GOOD-LOOKING MAN FOURTEEN AND A HALF YEARS AGO OR SO, RIGHT?
NOW WHEN IT COMES TO ME, TO BE HONEST I LIKE MEN WHO LOOK GOOD
YOU GOING TO STOP TALKING LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ANSWER?

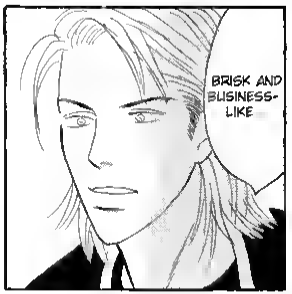
YOU SURE YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO A PUNK WHO MADE FUN OF YOU?
BUT I WAS PRETTY GOOD AT MAKING YOU LOSE YOUR COOL, HUH

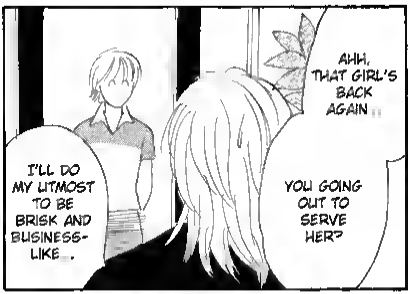
KAZUKI?


KAZUKI!


AH, MY EYES!
NAH! I DIDN'T CRY. MUST BE AN ALLERGY, HUH?
I'M NOT SURE WHY THEY'RE LIKE THAT.
HELLO! THE SAME GUY AS USUAL, PLEASE!


WAS YOUR DATE LAST NIGHT A FAILURE?
HUH?
DID YOU CRY AFTER YOU WERE REJECTED? YOUR EYES ARE ALL RED AND SWOLLEN!

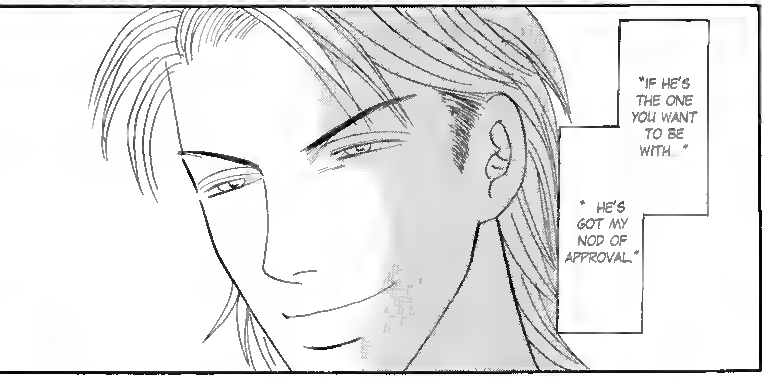

BRISK AND BUSINESS-LIKE...

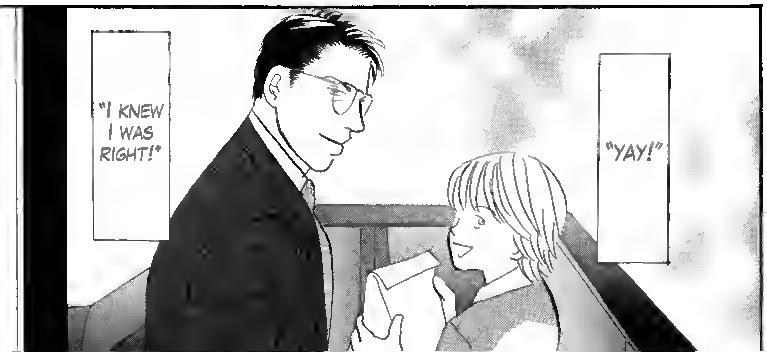

AHH, THAT GIRL'S BACK AGAIN...
YOU GOING OUT TO SERVE HER?
I'LL DO MY UTMOST TO BE BRISK AND BUSINESS-LIKE.

AT LAST...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE

"SO YOU'RE WAITING TO BE WITH SOME-ONE?"
"AND HE'S THE ONE..."
"WHEN I HEARD THE TWO OF YOU TALK, I HAD A FEELING IT WAS HIM."


"IF HE'S THE ONE YOU WANT TO BE WITH..."
"...HE'S GOT MY NOD OF APPROVAL."


"I KNEW I WAS RIGHT!"
"YAY!"

I LOVE YOU, TOO!

YOU GOT THAT? I LOVE YOU!
END